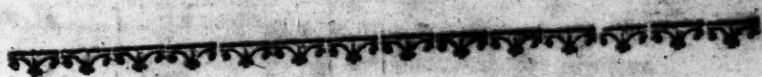




AN  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
PRESENT STATE  
OF  
NOVA SCOTIA.





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P R E S E N T S T A T E  
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N O V A S C O T I A  
N O V A S C O T I A

Printed by W. & A. G. Smith, Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH.

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AN  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
PRESENT STATE

OF THE  
  
NOVA SCOTIA.  
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———C'est le nombre du peuple et l'abondance des alimens, qui forme la vrai force et la vrai richesse d'un royaume.

EDINBURGH:  
PRINTED FOR WILLIAM CREECH;  
AND  
T. LONGMAN LONDON.

———  
M,DCC,LXXXVI.

TO  
AN  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
JOHN LORD JOHNSTON

of the  
The following sheets, contain-  
PRESIDENT  
ing an account of the President

State of  
BRITISH  
MUSEUM  
are most respectfully inscribed

BY  
His Lordship

most obedient  
and most humble servant  
EDINBURGH  
THE AUTHOR


Printed by William Creech,  
T. Longman London.



**T O**  
**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE**  
**JOHN LORD SHEFFIELD,**

**&c. &c.**

The following sheets, contain-  
ing an Account of the Present  
State of

  
**N O V A S C O T I A,**

are most respectfully inscribed

**B Y**

His Lordship's

most obedient

and most humble servant

**THE AUTHOR.**

TO  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
JOHN LORD SHEFFIELD.  
OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

8cc. 8cc.  
The following sheets contain

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*—Beaver Harbour—St John's River—*  
*Falls—Parr Town—Harbour of ditto—Its*  
*population—Quako Settlement—Mines Ba-*  
*son, and Chignecto Bay—French Neutrals*  
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INTRODUCTION

THE  
PRESENT STATE  
OF  
NOVA SCOTIA.

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INTRODUCTION.

**A** MOMENT'S reflection, upon the vast loss of territory, as well as the immense number of subjects, which Great Britain has sustained in America, in consequence of the unfortunate issue of the late war, must awaken in the mind of every man, who feels himself interested in his country's welfare, not only the most painful ideas, but must leave him in some degree at a loss to determine, whence the misfortune

A                      arose ;

arose; whether from a mistaken and delusive system, pursued by the government at home; from the clamours of factious and designing men, as well in England as America; from that enthusiasm, which so often seizes on whole nations as well as individuals, heightened and inflamed by the envy of foreign states, aiming to crush for ever the power and the commerce of Great Britain, by accomplishing the dis-union and separation of the parent state and her colonies; the interference and attacks of those nations, united in a confederacy, as numerous as it was powerful; or whether, indeed, it did not arise from all these causes, acting to one unfortunate end.

Happily for England, that national spirit, which has so often distinguished her amongst the nations, as well when convulsed by intestine disorders, as when surrounded by superior forces, exerted itself with its usual effect. The world saw with astonishment the efforts that were made; even her de-



## INTRODUCTION. 3

defeats added to her glory; Europe, Asia, and the West Indies, beheld the standards of Britain crowned with victory, or repelling with success their hostile foes, who, awed by that unbroken resolution which appeared in the exertions of her fleets and armies, frequently neglected to gather the fruits of those advantages that had been gained at the expence of their blood and treasure.

In America alone, as far as relates to final success, the sad reverse appears in almost every thing; there, though possessed of an army, numerous, brave, and active; and of a fleet well manned and appointed, yet repeated victories led but to repeated defeats; and misfortune constantly followed in the footsteps of prosperity. Those events are too recent to stand in need of being enlarged upon; and, were they still more distant, a repetition of them must awaken many painful sensations: Fortunately for this country, though she lost much, she was not entirely stripped of all

her

her ancient possessions in America, Canada, and Nova Scotia, however miserably curtailed, by the terms of the provisional treaty, are still left.

Great nations, as well as private families, are subject to revolutions, misfortunes, and decay; from which it is necessary to learn wisdom, and, by a prudent conduct, avoid falling again upon those rocks, on which their hopes and happiness have been already wrecked; and, by pursuing a contrary line of direction, prevent the renewal of the like evils in future.

It must awaken the attention, and call forth every feeling of humanity, to consider this Province, as the last and only refuge of a body of people, less respectable for their numbers, though great, than for their loyalty and sufferings, in consequence of a firm and unshaken adherence to the British constitution; disdaining to live beneath the shadow of those moteley and disjointed

## INTRODUCTION. 5

jointed fabrics of government, which have been raked out of the ashes of the Hea-then republics of Greece and Rome; they have quitted their native soil, where ease and affluence, the happy effects of their own and their ancestors industry, awaited them; and sacrificing every thing to those principles, have fled to its desarts as a protection from the violence of their countrymen; and sought amidst its forests the means of procuring the bare necessities of life, which can only be obtained by a hard and laborious employment, constantly struggling with the rigours of an inclement sky, and a rough and uncultivated soil; in all things, the reverse of those mild climates and fruitful fields, their former happy possession.

But, in a national point of view, it is of still greater consequence to England, to be possessed of it, as entirely commanding the fisheries; which, while properly encouraged, may not only be considered as an inexhaustible



## 6 INTRODUCTION.

inexhaustible mine of wealth to the empire at large, and one of the chief sinews of its power, but as having the most evident tendency to increase the trade and population of the Province, and render it not only happy in itself, but also useful to Great Britain, as well in point of commerce, as by affording protection to the fisheries upon its own coasts, and those carried on upon the banks of Newfoundland.

In short, its situation is advantageous, viewed in every light. Its shipping and seamen are rapidly increasing, as well as its produce, which affords the pleasing prospect of being able to supply itself with all the necessaries of life; a thing that cannot be expected at present, from the immense number of settlers who have, before and since the late peace, abandoned their habitations in the United States.

THE

SITUATION, EXTENT,  
INTRODUCTION.  
THE  
SITUATION, EXTENT, AND  
APPEARANCE.

**N**OVA SCOTIA is, without doubt, the most convenient, in point of situation, of any province in America, for a maritime power to be possessed of; from the excellent opportunities which it affords of watering, wooding, and re-victualling their fleets, that may be bound to or from the West Indies, either in time of peace or war; as is apparent, from inspecting the map of the two Continents, of Europe and the New World; in which its comparative vicinity to Europe is particularly striking; lying considerably to the northward and eastward of all the old colonies, and having

### 3 SITUATION, EXTENT,

a great part detached from the main land of America, so as to be almost entirely surrounded by the waters of the ocean, and affording shelter and protection on every side, by means of its numerous harbours, of which it can boast a greater number, than almost any other country of the same extent in the world.

This Province, when possessed by France, was called Acadia; and supposed to comprehend only the great triangular peninsula which forms the southern part of the colony, exclusive of that large tract of country, separated from it by the Bay of Fundy, and extending north to the River St Laurence, having for its boundary on the west, Passamaquoddy Bay, and the River St Croix, and on the east, the Gut of Canso and Gulf of St Laurence, the Atlantic Ocean being the southern boundary of the whole Province; whose dimensions extend from Cape Sable, Lat.  $44^{\circ} 10'$  to the  $47^{\text{th}}$  degree of north Lat.



AND APPEARANCE. 9

Lat. being 130 leagues in breadth, from north to south, and about 100 in length from east to west, namely, from Cape Sable to Cape Canso, which is its easternmost extremity; and having in the very center the Bay of Fundy, a navigation that may justly be considered as of the highest importance to its future wealth and prosperity.

The face of the country, when viewed at a distance, presents a pleasingly variegated appearance of hills and valleys, with scarcely any thing like mountains to interrupt the prospect, especially near the sea. A nearer approach discovers those sublime and beautiful scenes, which are so far superior to the gaudy embellishments of art. Immense forests, formed of the tallest trees, the growth of ages, and reaching almost to the clouds, every where incumber and adorn the land: Their leaves falling in autumn add continually to that crust of moss, vegetables, and decaying wood, that has for many centuries been accumulating;

B

whilst

## 10 SITUATION, EXTENT,

whilst the rays of the sun, unable to pierce the thick shade, which every where covers the ground, leaves it in a perpetual state of damp and rottenness; a circumstance which contributes, in no small degree, to increase the sharpness of the air in winter.

The clouds, flying over the higher grounds, which are covered in every direction with one vast forest, and arrested by the attraction of the woods, fill the country with water. Every rock has a spring, and every spring causes a swamp, or morafs, of greater or less extent, in proportion to its cause; hence it is, that travelling becomes almost impracticable in summer, and is seldom attempted, but in the fall of the year, when winter begins to set in, and the ground is already frozen.

The land, throughout the peninsula, is in no part mountainous, but frequently rises into hills of gradual ascent, every where clothed with wood. From these arise innumerable

SITUATION, EXTENT,  
AND APPEARANCE. 11

numerable springs and rivulets, which not only fertilize and adorn the country, but have formed, in the midst of it, a large lake, or piece of fresh water, which is of various depths, and of which, however, little more is known, than, that it has upon its borders very large tracts of meadow-land, highly improveable. That part of the Province, which is beyond the Bay of Fundy, and extends to the River St Laurence, rises also gradually, as we advance from the sea, quite to Canada, but is, however, hardly any where mountainous. Its lands are mostly very good, particularly at a distance from the sea; and its woods are generally hard, lofty, and extremely useful.

It is remarkable that, in these savage deserts, all the animals fly with terror and precipitation from every place marked with the footsteps of man, who commonly carries devastation with him, and impresses fear on every other creature. Happy, indeed, had it been for the human race, if the



## 12 SITUATION, EXTENT,

the malignant passions, which distinguish and disgrace the Lord of the creation, had been employed in the pursuits of the chase, and the destruction of beasts of prey, rather than in wars more criminal, and far less useful.

## CLIMATE

This country, like Canada, is subject to long and severe winters, succeeded by sudden and violent heats, often much greater than what are felt in the same latitudes in Europe; yet it cannot be accounted an unhealthy climate. The air in general in winter is very sharp, frothy, and dry, the sky serene and unclouded, by which every kind of exercise adapted to the season is rendered pleasant and agreeable. The fogs are frequent near the sea, but seldom extend themselves to any distance inland.

## CLIMATE AND SEASONS.

**T**HOUGH this country, like Canada, is subject to long and severe winters, succeeded by sudden and violent heats, often much greater than what are felt in the same latitudes in Europe; yet it cannot be accounted an unhealthy climate. The air in general in winter is very sharp, frosty, and dry; the sky serene and unclouded, by which every kind of exercise adapted to the season is rendered pleasant and agreeable.

The fogs are frequent near the sea, but seldom spread themselves to any distance in land.

land. They are observed to rise only from those places that are contiguous to the fishing banks which lie upon the coast, and are remarkable for not producing the same disagreeable effects upon the human body, as is observable of fresh water fogs; the influence of the latter often producing the most dangerous diseases, even upon persons that are otherwise healthy, and, to the consumptive or asthmatic, present death. The reason of this difference is, no doubt, to be accounted for, from their different origin; and a particular investigation of the matter is foreign to our purpose.

The winter commonly breaks up with heavy rains, and the inhabitants experience hardly any of the delights of the spring, which in England is accounted the most agreeable season of the year. From a lifeless and dreary appearance, and the gloomy scenes of winter wrapped around the vegetable world, the country throws off its disgusting attire, and, in a few days, exhibits



## CLIMATE AND SEASONS. 15

a grand and pleasing prospect; the vegetation being inconceivably rapid, nature passes suddenly from one extreme to another, in a manner utterly unknown to countries accustomed to a gradual progression of seasons. And, strange as it may appear, it is an acknowledged fact, a fact which furnishes a certain proof of the purity of the air, that these sudden changes seldom, if ever, affect the health of strangers or Europeans.

Many conjectures, some of them improbable enough, have been made by persons unacquainted with North America, but from hearsay, to account for the length of the winter, and the peculiar severity of the air. Its real causes are, the great height of the land, every where between the north pole and the British colonies lying upon the Atlantic Ocean, consisting of unknown and almost boundless regions, formed of vast ranges of prodigious mountains covered with eternal snow; the immense lakes,

or

or rather seas of fresh water, frozen up and entirely covered with ice one half of the year; and what is equal, if not superior to these, is, the extreme humidity of the soil. As the north-west winds prevail, and continue to blow near nine months in the year, and must, in their passage, necessarily pass over a great extent of cold and barren deserts, as well as of mountains covered with snow, and large tracts of fresh water: It may be easily conceived from hence, with what innumerable particles of cold they must be charged, by the time they arrive near the sea coast. To follow, therefore, the subject further, would be only to perplex what is sufficiently obvious; and the causes as above stated are fully adequate for determining the question, why, in Nova Scotia, the winter is longer, and the cold more severe, than in European countries which are situated in much higher latitudes?

The

## CLIMATE AND SEASONS. 17

The coldness, however, of this province, with that of New England, will scarcely bear a comparison, the latter being generally much greater, which is plain from this circumstance, that their harbours are frequently frozen, a thing which is seldom or ever known to happen in the former.

### NATURAL



The soldiers, however, of the province  
The pine forests, which may be supposed  
with that of New England, will be found  
to occupy four fifths of the lands in the  
bear a comparison, the latter being gene-  
rally much greater, which is plain from  
the massive spars timber for the sugar plan-  
tations, and timber for building, but for  
timber for such and other purposes, com-  
monly frozen, a thing which is seldom  
seen in the pine forests of New England.

## NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

It is true, and with which the mother coun-  
try may in a few years easily be supplied,  
if such encouragements are held out, as a  
reward for the different kinds of wood, which  
grow in the neighbouring provin-  
ces of New England, grow here. Unfor-  
tunately, however, very little white oak  
can be obtained, but what grows at such a  
distance from the sea, as renders it incapable  
of becoming an article of commerce, with  
any prospect of profit; a circumstance the  
more to be lamented, as no species of wood  
is more valuable to America, on account  
of the great demand there is for it in the  
West India islands.

The

## NATURAL PRODUCTIONS. 19

The pine forests, which may be supposed to occupy four fifths of all the lands in the Province, are not only valuable for furnishing masts, spars, lumber for the sugar plantations, and timber for building, but for yielding tar, pitch, and turpentine, commodities which are all procured from this useful tree, and with which the mother country may in a few years easily be supplied, if such encouragements are held out, as a wise administration know how to bestow upon an industrious and useful colony. The process for obtaining these valuable articles is so simple, that every man possessed of land has it in his power to make more or less of them.

This matter merits the serious attention of the legislature ; as the United States, whilst they continued the subjects of England, furnished our Shipping with tar, pitch, and turpentine ; but have since become, in every respect, a foreign nation. It is surely no longer good policy to take from them  
those

## 20 NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

those things which, with proper encouragement, our own colonies are found to produce; and, although the quantity made by them will never, perhaps, be equal to the demand, yet it affords a pleasing prospect of greatly reducing the loss that must otherwise accrue to us in this branch of trade, which is acknowledged on all hands to be considerably against Great Britain.

All the various species of birch, beech, and maple, and several sorts of spruce, are found in all parts in great abundance; as also numerous herbs and plants, either not common to, or not known in England. Amongst these none is more plentiful than *sarsaparilla*, and a plant whose root resembles *rhubarb* in colour, taste, and effects; likewise the *Indian* or *mountain tea*, and *maiden-hair*, an herb much in repute for the same purpose, with shrubs producing *strawberries*, *raspberries*, and many other pleasant fruits, with which the woods in summer are well stored: Of these wild productions,



productions, the cherries are best, though smaller than ours, and growing in bunches somewhat resembling grapes. The saffras tree grows plentifully in common with others; but amongst them none is more usefull to the inhabitants, than a species of maple, distinguished by the name of the fugar tree, as affording a considerable quantity of that valuable ingredient; to obtain which, it is necessary, early in the spring, when the sap in vegetables is observed to begin to rise, to make an incision at some distance from the ground, about two inches deep in the trunk of the tree, and a spout being fixed therein, the juice flows fast into a vessel placed below to receive it, and decreases in quantity as the sun declines toward evening. This liquor, which, in its natural state, is of a sweetish watery taste, and requires no other preparation than to be evaporated over a slow fire, whereby its aqueous parts are disunited from the fugar, and the latter is cooled in moulds made of earth, or bark of trees. Sixteen pounds

of

NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.  
22 NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

of sap are requisite for making one of sugar, and care is taken not to drain the trees too much; twenty gallons is deemed sufficient from the largest; nor can the operation be repeated twice in the same year, without endangering the life of the tree, a precaution not always attended to in this country.

The sugar, when cold, is of a reddish brown colour, somewhat transparent, and very pleasant to the taste. It can only, however, be considered as of use to the inhabitants within the province, and they have not failed to ascribe to it several virtues, either real or imaginary, as a medicine.

Amongst the natural productions of Nova Scotia, it is necessary to enumerate their iron ore, which is supposed equally good with that found in any part of America; the wants and necessities of the refugees will not permit such trials to be made, at least for some time to come, as are neces-

sary

fary for ascertaining its goodness: The attention which is requisite in promoting the arts of husbandry, and extending the fisheries, so as to ensure a present subsistence, must occupy so much of their thoughts, as to leave them no room for speculation on future improvements, or advantages that are at any considerable distance. There can, however, remain but little doubt, that the iron made here may become a useful article of trade in the course of a few years.

Lime-stone is found in many places; it is extremely good, and is now much used for building; independent of which, it gives the farmers and landholders a great advantage for improving the ground, as it is found by experience to be one of the most approved things in the world for that purpose.

## ANIMALS,



## ANIMALS, TREES, AND PLANTS, THAT HAVE BEEN IMPORTED.

The animals that have been imported do not degenerate. The black cattle are in general very large, and the sheep greatly preferable to those of New England; the flesh both of them and of their hogs is excellent; and some very good horses are now bred in the country. Their dogs are exceeded by none in the world for strength or utility, being constantly put to every kind of drudgery, such as fetching home the provisions that are necessary for the family, the wood for their firing, &c.

Several

Several of the useful and most common European fruits have been planted in many places; so that the Province now produces, particularly at Annapolis Royal, and in the country between Halifax and the Basin of Mines, great quantities of apples, some pears, and a few plumbs, which are all good of their kind, especially the former.

The smaller fruits, such as currants, gooseberries, &c. grow to as great perfection as in Europe, and the same may be said of all the common and useful kinds of garden plants. Among these their potatoes have the preference, as being the most serviceable in a country abounding with fish; and indeed they are not to be exceeded in goodness by any in the world.

The maize, or Indian corn, is a native of much warmer climates, and though planted here, never arrives at more than two thirds of its natural bigness; a defect which arises as well from the shortness of the

D

summer

summer as the gravelly nature of the soil. Its vast utility both to man and beast will always, however, render it an object of cultivation, as no kind of grain is more easily raised, after the lands are once cleared, or is capable of yielding a greater produce, which is generally from seven hundred to a thousand grains, and sometimes twelve hundred, for one that has been sowed; and besides this large increase, it is remarkable for the excellent food which its stems and leaves afford to every kind of cattle in winter, who will eat it in preference to any other vegetable.

As the remaining branches of the king's dominions in America will be better known hereafter, and, it is hoped, so governed as to render them flourishing and happy in themselves, and useful to the parent state; the attention of the legislature will, no doubt, be directed to adopt such measures as may encourage the growth of hemp and flax; articles which are perfectly fitted to the

the



the soil and climate of the country ; and, if considered as forming an essential part of the stores consumed, not only by the royal navy, but by all the mercantile vessels of Great Britain, must always be an object of national importance, and, if properly supported, will keep at home a great part, if not all, of those immense sums which have hitherto been sent abroad and expended with foreign nations, for purchasing hemp, canvas, and linens.

Tobacco, a plant of which the uses and effects are well known, may be cultivated with ease in Nova Scotia, as it is already every where in Canada from Lake Champlain to the Isle of Orleans, for the purpose of internal consumption. Considered in no other light than as keeping a sum of money in the Province, the culture of this article is an object of some concern ; but, whether its quality will ever render it a commodity fit for exportation, time alone can discover.

DANGERS

## 48 DANGERS UPON

### DANGERS UPON THE COAST.

**T**HIS country, as has been already observed, may be justly esteemed the first in the American world, with respect to that situation, whether in peace or war, which a great maritime power, possessed also of settlements in the West Indies, would wish to retain and improve.

All the southern coast of the Peninsula is one continued chain of inlets, bays, roads, and sheltering places for shipping; the approaches to which are rendered easy, by the regularity of the soundings; so that the goodness of its harbours add to its importance, and increase the local advantages for

for which, in respect to situation, it stands indebted to nature.

The principal dangers to which those who intend to make the land are exposed, are, first, from Brown's bank, or George's bank, a very large shoal lying a great way off at sea, south-west of Cape Sable; it is asserted to have been seen dry in some places, which is not improbable, as there are credible persons who have sounded upon it in three fathoms water\*. It is one of the worst places in the world to fall in with at night, especially in bad weather, though fortunately the soundings are gradual.

The second danger upon the coast, arises from the Seal islands, which lie off Cape Sable, the south westermost extremity of the province; they are still more hurtful from

\* This shoal part is nearer to Cape Cod, at the entrance to Boston bay, than to any other place; it bears from it east about 50 miles.



### 36 DANGERS UPON

from the constant fogs and currents that prevail thereabout, and many vessels are every year wrecked upon them.

A third, and that equal to either of the former, is the Isle of Sable, lying about thirty leagues S. E. of Halifax. It is a great bank of sand, very low, being almost even with the water, and scarcely discernible, even in clear weather, at any considerable distance; narrow, but of considerable length, and surrounded, particularly at the N. E. and N. W. ends, with terrible shoals, bars, and hills of sand. In the middle of it there is a large pond of salt water, communicating with the sea, abounding with oysters and other shell fish, which afford a scanty subsistence to the wretches who are so unhappy as to be wrecked upon this desolate island. A near approach to it discovers only naked sand hills, producing a few low shrubs, and inhabited by horses and some few black cattle, that have long since run wild.

Very

Very little danger is to be apprehended when well in with the main land, except from what is visible and above water, and even these dangers are daily lessened by experience, and by the great improvements made in the nautic art, amongst which, that of determining the longitude of places by coelestial observation deservedly holds the first rank, and has greatly facilitated the construction of the best sea charts that any age or nation can boast of having possessed. The tides in the bay of Fundy, though regular, yet, as running very strong in many places, and causing a great rise and fall of water, have impressed the minds of many persons, unacquainted with the coast, with an unjust idea of the peril and difficulty of the navigation, especially during the winter, which has not been a little heightened by the fogs that are prevalent at this season of the year. It will, therefore, be necessary to have light houses erected in several places for ensuring, not only the safety of the commercial interests of the province, but

### 32 DANGERS UPON

but likewise the King's ships, which are equally exposed, in performing the duties of their station, with the merchant vessels employed in these seas. Happily the situations fit for such erections are so placed by nature, as to be obvious to the most inexperienced observer. One of them must be built upon a conspicuous part of Grand Manan, the S. W. point of Long Island, which forms the entrance of the bay of Fundy; and this, not only for the guidance of ships bound in from sea, but likewise for those that come down from the settlements at the head of the bay, from St John's River, Annapolis Royal, and other places.

The second should be upon Partridge Island, at the entrance into St John's River, a situation not less adapted for such a purpose than for that of raising works to secure the navigation of the river, protect the harbour, and prevent the landing of an enemy.

Another



Another is wanted upon the Seal Islands, and is that which will be the most useful; the advantages naturally arising from it being of the most extensive kind, and equally diffused to ships of all nations, whom either choice, misfortune, or ignorance has brought into the American seas.

Annapolis Royal, and Port Roseway\*, harbours upon which such considerable settlements are formed, as bid fair to rival the commercial glory of some cities in the old colonies, would be much benefited by similar erections, which, though unable to complete themselves at present, might be kept, if already built, without any kind of expence to government.

As a considerable settlement is forming at Chedabucto Bay, in the easternmost extremity of the province; it is absolutely necessary that a light-house should be built upon, or near to Cape Canso; not merely

E                      because

\* There is one now building at this place.

### 34 DANGERS UPON, &c.

because there is a town forming in its neighbourhood, but because it is surrounded by many shoals and rocks, which are little known, and above all, because it will tend to facilitate the navigation from Nova Scotia to St John's Island, the gulph and river of St Laurence, and Canada, by means of the streights or gut of Canso, a narrow channel or arm of the sea, which divides the island of Cape Breton, from the country of which we are speaking.

### FISHERIES.

because there is a town joining in its neigh-  
bourhood, it is not so much frequented by  
many of the small vessels, which are little  
known, and the great number of small vessels  
to which it is so well known, and the great  
number of small vessels, which are little  
known, and the great number of small vessels

# FISHERIES.

the fishing vessels, which are little  
known, and the great number of small vessels  
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number of small vessels, which are little  
known, and the great number of small vessels

**U**PON every part of the coast, and at  
different distances from the land,  
there are fishing banks, of greater or smal-  
ler extent, and in various depths of wa-  
ter, generally from thirty to sixty fathoms;  
upon all of these, the cod fish is found in  
all seasons, and in every month of the year,  
notwithstanding what has been sometimes  
advanced to the contrary. There is, indeed,  
some variation as to the quantity taken,  
and the depth of water to which the fish  
retire, at certain seasons; they, however,  
never entirely forsake the coast. The  
common, and, indeed, the almost only me-  
thod



thod practised here, is that which is called the stationary fishery, carried on by the inhabitants in small craft. In these they go off to sea in Summer, and remain but from one or two days to seven or eight, salting the fish whilst out, and on their return drying it upon hurdles, placed horizontally, at some distance from the ground, and taking care, whenever it rains, to turn the skin or back of the fish to the weather, to prevent its being spoiled. When dried sufficiently, it is piled up in stacks, and afterward either exported as an article of trade, or reserved as food in winter. That which is only salted, and thrown immediately into the holds of the vessels employed in fishing, without any farther preparation, is called green cod; very little of this is preserved for sale, and none exported.

The fresh fish was never considered as an article of commerce, but is extremely useful to the inhabitants as food, of which it constitutes a principal part, and likewise

wife to the persons concerned in the fishery.

The almost infinite number of cod that is taken every year in these seas, though it may excite astonishment at first, will cease to do so, when we consider the immense multitudes which most of the aquatic tribes are formed to bring forth. In this respect, the creative wisdom of divine providence is not a little magnified, by a comparative view of the beneficial and harmless fish we are speaking of; and that enemy to man and every other living creature, the voracious and devouring shark, who, though so large, brings forth her young ones alive, which are sometimes not above five or six in number, and seldom exceed twenty; on the contrary, the roe or spawn of the cod, having been actually counted by an \* able naturalist, was found to contain more than nine millions of eggs,

each

\* M. Leweenhoeck.

each one capable of reproducing the species, in the same extent and perfection,

This vast profusion of nature, so observable in the seas of North America, might teach us to consider the ocean, and its various productions, as a property common to the whole earth; and, upon this principle, the obvious and natural rights of mankind would incline us to think, that the fisheries in particular should be open to all nations. But maritime states (by which is to be understood, those not only possessed of naval power, but also of colonies settled at their expence, and nourished by their care and protection, knowing their importance, have, from motives of sound policy, prohibited, and almost totally excluded foreigners from a share of the benefits: Thus Spain, Portugal, and Italy, which, from the great number of monks, and the general superstition of their people, might at least claim the necessity, if not the right of fishing, are among the  
rest



rest entirely debarred from it. The British government wisely avails itself of superior power and situation, in order to realize to its subjects the profits and advantages arising from a branch of commerce, which, whilst it gives bread to thousands, enriches the state, and contributes in a very great degree to render the kingdom flourishing at home, and abroad, both powerful and respectable.

From the middle of April, when the rains which break up the frost commonly prevail, and put an end to the winter season, a constant succession of all kinds of fish common to the country takes place in the harbours and inlets. Of these, the herrings are generally the first, and in a little time becoming gradually intermixed with the shad, are succeeded by them; these are accounted almost equally good with salmon for drying and salting; both the one and the other run in prodigious shoals towards the heads of the creeks and rivers,

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in order to deposit their spawn at the falls or rapids, which stop them from proceeding farther, and where they may be taken with baskets in any quantity. Salmon soon succeed, and continue a considerable time in season, and are generally taken in a set net, which must be watched in order to observe when they entangle themselves. Their number is so great, that many fisheries may be established for curing and exporting them ; one of these is already begun on the Bason of Mines.

Mackarel, and another kind of fish, neither not known in England, or not common there, which grows very large, come into the harbours during the fall of the year, in such numbers as is inconceivable, for the purpose of preying upon the young fish, that are the offspring of other kinds which take to the shoal water, until their size and strength may enable them to go further off in quest of subsistence.

The

The havock committed upon them is truly astonishing. From a dissection of one of their pursuers, the stomach was found to contain more than five hundred of the small fish. A proof of one of the many means used by providence to prevent the seas from becoming overstocked with inhabitants! Mackarel are exported in large quantities to the West Indies; but the voracious kind of fish above mentioned are unfit for food, unless eaten fresh.

Lobsters are found on all parts of the sea-shore in great abundance, and the catching them is chiefly confined to the Indians, who carry them to market in their small canoes. Plaice, flounders, soals, skate, and halibut, are to be met with every where in the greatest profusion, and are only used by the fishermen and inhabitants for food.

The Americans took care to reserve to themselves, at the late treaty of peace, under the powerful mediation of France, a

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right



right to fish upon the coasts and banks of the colony, and to dry their fish on shore in its uninhabited bays and harbours. Of the first of these advantages they have availed themselves; many of their vessels completed their cargoes there during the last season. It is probable, however, that they will preserve their cod green, not only because the best harbours are already occupied by the loyalists and refugees, who have settled there from other places, but because in the others they might frequently expect to meet with the stationary fishermen, in which cases disputes would possibly arise; though it is but justice to observe of the sea-faring people, who are the subjects of the United States, that their behaviour in those parts has, on all occasions, shewn a desire to avoid giving offence, or doing any thing that might awaken the remembrance of past injuries. These, upon the contrary, they seem studious of burying in oblivion; and it is, perhaps, for this reason that they have seldom, if at all, presumed to wear

wear their national colours, in any of the harbours.

The cod fishery begins in the Bay of Fundy in the month of May, and continues there only six weeks or two months. The fish caught here are neither so good nor in such plenty as those which are caught out at sea, or even near the mouth of the Bay about the islands at Passamaquoddy; but they are extremely useful to the numerous inhabitants who are settled or settling in the different harbours.

No fatigues or hardships can exceed those of the fishermen during the season, their labours leaving them hardly any time to rest either by night or day. Fortunately, however, from the healthiness of the climate, from the wholesomeness of their food, which consists chiefly of fish, but above all from their constant exercise, they enjoy, in general, an uninterrupted state of health.

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In conclusion, It may with truth be asserted, that the fishery, in the last summer, employed about ten thousand men, and was the means of feeding at least thirty thousand. The whole quantity caught was upwards of an hundred and twenty thousand quintals, about forty thousand of which were exported; these, at the lowest price, viz. thirteen shillings and sixpence each, must have amounted to L. 26,000 Sterling, which sum may be estimated as so much money really gained to the colony, whether the fish were sold abroad for cash, or exchanged for commodities of which the inhabitants stood in need. The calculation here given, which is very low, and designedly kept within bounds, that no charge of exaggeration may be brought against it, is only intended to shew what the colony is now able to do, when in a weak and imperfect state, and furnishes an incontestible proof that the fisheries are an inexhaustible mine of wealth, and do, with the woods, constitute the natural riches of the country.

INDIANS.



## INDIANS.

**T**HAT we may go on regularly in viewing the produce of the country, and from thence form a judgment of its value, it will be necessary to say something of the natives themselves, before we mention the grand object of their pursuit, the fur trade.

Ignorant of the arts of agriculture, as well as of commerce, except in the most confined sense, it is in the fatigues and pleasures of the chase that they have clothing as well as food for their object; and, whilst we thus represent their manners as

concisely

concisely as possible, abstruse speculation, improbable conjecture, and hearsay information, will be equally avoided.

The large territory which presents itself to our view, exhibits, at first sight, a dark, thick, and almost impenetrable forest, indented on all sides with the waters of the sea, intersected with innumerable springs, as well as many extensive swamps and morasses, which, never yet cultivated, afford shelter to many savage animals, and large herds of useful ones. On a closer examination, we discover many small tribes or single families of the human species scattered about upon the coast, perpetually wandering from place to place, living in a state of war with the beasts of the field, depending upon their destruction for subsistence, and practising no sort of cultivation, or any of those other arts, which are so necessary to the ease of man in an improved state, if not to his very existence.

These

These are the remains of the ancient nations; the inhabitants who once filled this part of the coast North America, and who, by their passion for war, and their attachment to the French neutrals that were settled among them, rendered themselves dreadful to all who approached them. That passion, so unworthy of a rational creature, and which constantly degenerates into barbarity, when exercised amongst men in a state of nature, was rendered still more fierce by the enthusiasm instilled into them by their priests, whose tenets, too often correspondent with the sentiments of the savages, irritated their natural ferocity to a continual thirst for the blood of men, who, to the obvious crime of being enemies, were branded as heretics also.

Happily those scenes have disappeared; fanaticism and blood-shed vanished together; the rage of the Indians has diminished with their numbers, and nothing now engages their attention but hunting and fishing,



ing, which, from their peaceable behaviour, are both rendered serviceable to the colony. Some few, indeed, have been observed to be displeased at the great number of white persons, who, since their migration, have, of necessity, destroyed some of the best hunting lands that were in the neighbourhood of the harbours they occupy; but their weakness, added to their prudence, will certainly prevent them from making any disturbance.

Their numbers, once so formidable, are now reduced to such a degree as to forebode the entire annihilation of the race; and it has often been observed, with strict truth, that they are continually degenerating and decreasing in all countries peopled by Europeans. This is not, however, owing to wars among themselves, or with others, nothing of that kind having happened for many years. It is chiefly to be ascribed either to the immoderate use of spiritous liquors of the very worst kind, purchased of  
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the white people, or to the introduction of the small pox into North America, which, at different periods, has committed dreadful ravages amongst them. A small dose of liquor never satisfies them. They drink it unmixed, until they can drink no more, and then become literally mad. This, from a frequent repetition, enfeebles and besots them, deadens and benumbs the nervous system, and, whilst it irritates, weakens and destroys the organs of generation, as well as those sentiments of affection and regard which mutually attract and unite the sexes, and of which the Indians are by no means destitute, when free from a habit of intoxication. It is not, however, uncommon to see a whole family carrying in their faces the marks of this brutal vice, and every muscle fixed in the calm stupidity of inebriation.

Their features, when young, are generally very good, especially the girls, who have fine eyes, teeth, and hair. After marriage,

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and

and bearing children, they suddenly lose their youthful look, and assume an aged and emaciated appearance. This remark is not, indeed, without exceptions, as many of them arrive to a very advanced age, contrary to what might be generally expected, from the wandering and exposed life they continually lead, and the hardships that must be endured as a necessary consequence.

The small-pox, that disease, which in our hemisphere, has so often proved a fatal scourge to mankind, could find but little resistance from a people who, before their intercourse with Europe, knew no distempers, but such as proceed from excessive heats or colds, and unacquainted with a medicine capable of diverting or stopping its progress; consequently the devastation committed by it has been so great, as to impress their minds with an idea of its being the worst and most consummate of evils that can befall mankind. Thus, of all the tribes  
known



known by the general name of Abenakies, once so numerous, and even esteemed as powerful, no more remain at present than eleven or twelve hundred of all ages and descriptions, which seem to be still decreasing in the same manner as in every other part of America.

The men are stout made, and have strong bones; but their muscles are apparently smaller than those of the Europeans, and are suited to their manner of life, which requires more agility than strength. Their height is well proportioned; for it never exceeds six feet, and is seldom less than the tallest of the middle size. Their complexion, by nature of a copper colour, is rendered still darker by going constantly exposed to the air, and neglecting to wash. The red paint, with which they formerly besmeared their faces, is now almost totally disused, except in Canada, where it is often made to express war, either begun or intended, and still oftener as an ornament to heighten the natural

natural beauty; the paint most esteemed for this purpose, is vermillion, as being the brightest and most durable.

The hair of the beard and eye-brows, that on the fore part of the head, and every other part of the body, is carefully plucked out by the roots, when they are young. The reason assigned for this custom is, to use their own expression, that the hair left upon the back of the head may not be *starved* by the supernumerary hair which grows upon other parts of the body, though it perhaps originated amongst their ancestors, from observing the propriety of shutting up the glandular passages, and thereby rendering themselves less liable to be hurt by the colds and damps of the surrounding atmosphere, to which, as a natural consequence of their wandering and unsettled life, they are more exposed than the people of any other nation. The hair upon their heads is always long and black;

as is also the hair and eyes of every Indian tribe in North America.

Their language sounds strong to the ear, but is attended with a soft breathing, or kind of respiration, which degenerates at times into a guttural noise for a moment, and then goes on smoothly as before. It is exceedingly expressive, and contains few words, as arising from a quick and lively sensation of visible objects, which prompts them to express, as it were in a moment, ideas that would take time and reflection in us to paint to the life; whilst their surprise, ignorance, or indignation, give birth to thoughts and expressions, warm, astonishing, and sublime; of which a thousand examples might be given, by persons conversant with their dialect.

Born and bred up in a state purely natural, they are extremely jealous of their independence. As they believe all men equal, their principal abhorrence to a civilized way  
of



of life seems to arise from what they observe among the nations that stile *them* barbarians, whose corruptions, and false ideas of things, they affect to despise; and none more than the respect that is paid to riches, which, as they justly remark, are frequently possessed by the most worthless of mankind.

No form of government can be said to subsist among them. Each little hord or tribe pays some deference to an old man, who is regarded for his wisdom and experience. He speaks upon all public occasions that concern the community, the rest meanwhile observing a profound silence; and his language is generally decent, sometimes bombastic and swelling, but always sensible, and delivered with gravity.

The Roman Catholick religion is universally professed, and they wear a small crucifix, as an emblem of their faith. This sense of religion has so far an influence upon

on them, as to bring great numbers from the most distant parts of the province to St John's river, where a Priest of the Romish communion comes annually from Canada, to baptize, confess, and absolve them; for which he is generally recompensed by a small parcel of furs from the head of each family.

Their subsistence depends entirely upon hunting and fishing; employments that occupy almost the whole of their lives, to which their canoes are a necessary appendage; and in the construction of it, the ingenuity of an Indian is chiefly displayed. The bark of a very large birch tree, smooth, and free from knots, is cut with a hatchet, perpendicularly through on one side, and then taken gradually, and with great art, off the tree. Being laid upon the ground, the two ends are neatly sewed up, as are the cracks or fissures caused by taking the bark off, with small withs made of spruce or pine; the wife is employed in cutting  
small

small hoops, half an inch thick, and three broad, to serve as ribs or timbers to strengthen it; these are placed crosswise, at some distance, the whole length; a gunwate, about an inch thick, is now strongly sewed to the canoe with the same materials, a nail serving as a needle, and the seams covered with melted rosin. The canoe, on being put into the water, is destined to carry the whole family, consisting sometimes of five or six persons, and likewise the guns, ammunition, and baggage; but the last of these is seldom very cumbersome. This beautiful little work, which is only eighteen feet long, two broad, and one deep, which is destitute of keel, sail, or rudder, and weighs only eighty or ninety pounds, is used in transporting them across the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, a greater distance, and more dangerous navigation, than the Channel of England.

The canoe, with the gun, tomahawk, and some few implements for fishing, constitute



stitute the whole riches of an Indian family; the furs taken in the chase being but too often exchanged for rum, the destroyer of their race, and the bane of their nation.

The children, as soon as born, are plunged into cold water, to harden them, and increase their strength. Afterwards, they are fastened to a board about two feet long, with their back against it, the arms, head, and legs, being left at liberty; and in this position they continue until able to go alone. The reason given for this strange custom, which prevails universally among the Indians, is, that it makes them grow straight and handsome; but a more obvious cause seems to be, that it is convenient for the mother to carry her offspring thus through the woods, where the eyes of an infant would be in continual danger from the boughs of trees, if born about in any other way, or the canoe might be overturned, if a child was left at liberty to move about in it. The insensibility of cold, and

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other

other hardships, observable even in children of the tenderest age, arises from that bluntness of the nervous system which custom and necessity, through successive generations, have at length naturalised and rendered perfectly familiar.

In conclusion.—Let not men, born under happier climates, and in the bosom of civilized nations, where learning and sciences have long been cultivated, and gradually brought to maturity, draw rash inferences from what has been said of their manners and customs, as if they were a people wholly immersed in barbarism, enemies to improvement, and incapable of instruction: On the contrary, let it be considered, that the leading characteristics, which distinguish man from the beasts of the field in so eminent a degree, even in his natural state, are in a peculiar manner stamped upon them. The most perfect notions of right and wrong, of subordination to God, as governour of the universe, and  
submission

submission to his will, are but a small part of that knowledge which they possess from Nature; and, whilst we deplore the darkness in which they are still buried, let us not forget, that very few ages have elapsed since the greater part of Europe was in a similar state; and that the same means which have been used by Divine Providence to rescue so many nations from the chains of ignorance, is perfectly adequate to the same purpose again, and may one day break forth, like the meridian sun, to dispel the clouds with which this western world is benighted, since neither good natural abilities, nor yet a desire to be instructed, are wanting, for bringing to perfection such a desirable event.

## BEASTS.



he sleeps perpetually, until forced from his  
 retreat by a shot, or a fire which is made  
 under him. The moment he falls he is  
 despatched, and order to prevent mischief;  
 but if undisturbed, is a perfectly harmless  
 animal.

## B E A S T S.

This wild cat, though much smaller, is  
 more dreaded both by man and beast. This  
 animal very much resembles the small do-  
 mestic creature whose name it bears, and is  
 of the size of a middling dog. It was cal-

**T**HE beasts of this province are com-  
 mon to Canada, the wolf excepted,  
 which is seldom found in Nova Scotia. Of  
 the wild, or hurtful animals, the first is the  
 bear. The chase of this beast, which is  
 far from being dangerous, is a great favou-  
 rite with the Indians, as generally affording  
 both profit and diversion. He is common-  
 ly black, and in winter somewhat shy, but  
 not fierce. During this season, being very  
 fat, his lodging is usually the trunk of an  
 old tree, where, regardless of every thing,  
 he

he sleeps perpetually, until forced from his retreat by a shot, or a fire which is made under him. The moment he falls he is despatched, in order to prevent mischief; but, if undisturbed, is a perfectly harmless animal.

The wild cat, though much smaller, is more dreaded both by man and beast. This animal very much resembles the small domestic creature whose name it bears, and is of the size of a middling dog. It was called *Lynx* by the ancients, and is well known in Siberia. It is larger than the wild cat of Canada, is very strong and fierce, and endowed with great sagacity, acuteness of sight, smell, and hearing, pursuing its prey to the tops of the tallest trees, and has the courage to attack even the human species, if spurred on by hunger. The flesh is accounted good food, the skin valuable, as being scarce, and the hair long, of a fine grey colour, somewhat striped, and inclining to yellow upon the belly.

Foxes

Foxes of two sorts are here, and they retain the same mischievous and wily dispositions remarked of the race in the other countries. The most esteemed sort is that whose fur is of a beautiful silver gray, long and full. The other is nearly the same as the English Fox; it preys upon birds, squirrels, and in short any animal it can master, as these frozen climates seldom leave the carnivorous tribes any choice in winter, but that of destroying others weaker than themselves. The black fox, the most valuable of the species, is seldom if ever seen here.

The mouse is a species of deer, and perhaps the largest animal of the kind in the world, it being from fourteen to seventeen hands in height, and from eight hundred to a thousand pound weight. Its legs are very long, and something smaller than those of a horse. The male is furnished with horns proportioned to its size, being ten or twelve feet from tip to tip. When chased by the Indians, its horns are laid back upon

its



its shoulders, and in this posture, its strength and velocity are so great as to break down and destroy small trees and branches of a considerable size. The only time for hunting them is in winter, when the snow lies deep, and so frozen on the top as to bear the weight of men and dogs; for then the beast, from its great weight, and by reason of its small feet sinking in at every step, is soon overtaken and destroyed. The skin, as well as the flesh of these animals, is very good; and of their amazing numbers we may in some degree form an estimate, from those killed last winter, in only one settlement, they amounting to at least four thousand.

The pole-cat, whose stinking properties have become proverbial, is of two or three kinds; all of which, however, afford a beautiful, soft, and glossy fur. The disagreeable smell observable in this creature, proceeds entirely from its urine, which it fears, on being close pursued, frequently  
force

force it to emit ; and on such occasions neither man nor beast can approach it ; nature, in with-holding from it other weapons, having, as a recompense, thus furnished it with the means of providing for its safety.

The opossum is an animal shaped like our rats, but larger, and its hair is grey or silver coloured. It is furnished with a false belly or skin that hangs beneath the true one, and can be opened or shut at pleasure. When she is pursued, the young ones go into this bag and escape with the parent. The animals of this class are not so numerous as the rats, which abound in the marshes, and are remarkable for the smell of musk observed in them. These creatures are larger than the rats with us, and have a strong resemblance to the beaver. The tail is flat and marked, but without hair ; their muscles are large, the feet behind webbed, and colour the same as that animal of which it seems a species, and par-  
takes

takes of several of its qualities. The fur though short is accounted very good.

The ermine is very small, but beautiful to an extreme. Its eyes are keen, and its motions quick and lively. Its skin is very valuable, being as white as snow in winter, except the tail which is black. This creature is seldom seen, and very rarely taken; and its scarcity makes it therefore less sought after than the martin or sable, whose fur is very beautiful, commonly of a dark brown, and sometimes (but rarely) quite black. These animals being very shy, are always found in the inmost recesses of the woods; the north side of the Province, beyond the bay of Fundy, is best stocked with them, and their fur is one of the most esteemed of any in the world.

The porcupine is found in the same part of the colony, but is too well known, and of so useless a nature, as not to need any description. Squirrels of several kinds a-

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bound



bound every where, and afford excellent sport to those who are fond of shooting.

The seal, though of an amphibious nature, claims our notice as a land animal; for it is upon land he is bred, and where he lives more than upon the water. These creatures follow the shoals of herrings thro' their various emigrations, devouring them in great numbers, and then retire to the shore to sleep. If cut off from their retreat to the water (which is not very often the case, as one who is left to watch is constantly upon the look out) they will fight and throw stones with great force to avoid being taken; and the consequence is they are commonly killed in the fray.

The Bay of Fundy abounds with them in the spring, and a fishery of some extent might be established there for the purpose of procuring their oil, which is preferable to that of the whale; their skin also is very highly and very justly esteemed for its  
many

many good qualities, and the uses to which it is applied in several manufactures.

The beaver, whose fur is so useful for a thousand purposes, is a timid animal, but of a social nature, and possesses a degree of instinct that is amazing. His colour is of a dark brown, the hair very thick, fine, and glossy. Of all our animals, he is nearest in shape to the small quadruped, called a guiney-pig. His hind feet are webbed like those of a water fowl; the fore feet are strong and armed with sharp claws, for digging and building; and his tail, which is flat and without hair, is about nine inches in length and five in breadth. He is of great strength, as is apparent from the construction of his bones and muscles; nor ought he to pass unnoticed, in respect to the strange life he leads in his natural state.

Before the approach of winter, these animals assemble in large troops, in order to build their houses, which are always situa-

ted

ted by the water, for the double advantage of safety and subsistence. If a still water or lake does not present itself, they find out the shallowest part of a river, over which a large tree projects; this they quickly fell, so as to lie across the stream; to effect it, their only instruments are the four large teeth, observable in several other animals; and a number of stakes of various sizes, being procured by the same means, and placed sloping to the current against the trunk of the fallen tree, they twist them together with boughs, and, lastly, fill up with earth, drawn from the shore upon their tails, and worked in amongst the stakes with great labour by the help of their fore feet.

The whole work, which is a public concern, when finished, leaves the mind lost in astonishment at viewing an immense causeway, perhaps thirty yards long, and four or five thick, raised without hands, in the midst of a river: Few people would think

but



but that it was a work of man for some useful purpose; but what follows discovers the artizans. Their house is built upon this pile: It is formed of mud strongly cemented together, and perfectly round, containing several apartments, and is one, two, or three stories in height, in proportion to the number of inhabitants that are to occupy it. The house is impenetrable to wind or rain, but has two doors, one towards the land, through which the provisions are brought, commonly consisting of poplar and alder twigs; and the other toward the water, in order to effect an escape, if found necessary. The floor of the house is covered with grass or boughs, and kept very clean. The store-room, or out-house, belonging to each family, is kept constantly full of twigs, placed regularly, as a reserve of food against bad or stormy weather, when they seldom venture abroad.

No creature is fonder of its young, or receives from them a more grateful return.

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The beaver, when grown up, will not forsake his parents; and the old and infirm, when taken, shew evident marks of having been fed, either by their own immediate descendents, or the community at large.

This animal, whose life is so much sought after, like his destroyer, the Indian, is constantly retiring from the white settlers, and growing every day scarcer. A few ages hence he will only be known, like the solitary creature that bears his name in Europe: His love of society will center in a regard to his own preservation; and luxury must direct its endeavours to discover a new object wherewith to satiate its appetite for novelty.

The caribou, an animal smaller by one half than the mouse, has been, however, generally confounded with it. Its flesh and skin are more highly prized by the natives than those of the latter, being esteemed the best of the deer kind in America; they

they are very shy, and seldom seen even by the natives. A large and extensive plain, lying north-east of St John's river, is the only place where the taking of them is accounted certain; for very few are to be found in the peninsula, or near any settlement.

The otter, a creature tolerably well known in Europe, is a voracious animal, subsisting chiefly on fish, and inhabiting the banks of rivers, or pools of fresh water. He is larger than the English otter, can dive very well, and continue a long time under water. His hair is a very good fur, long and fine, and inclining to a dark brown. Its goodness makes these animals very much an object to the Indians in hunting, and they are often found in considerable numbers.

**EUR**



## F U R T R A D E.

**I**T was the misfortune of a neighbour-  
 ing kingdom, when possessed of colo-  
 nies in North America, to have ministers,  
 who, blind from ignorance, prejudice, or  
 avarice, to the true interests both of their  
 country and its colonies, sacrificed the safe-  
 ty of the one, and the prosperity of the  
 other, to a temporary branch of commerce,  
 which yielded, indeed, a temporary flow of  
 wealth and revenue, but was utterly desti-  
 tute of that foundation, for its continuance,  
 which can alone constitute the real worth  
 of

of any kind of trade, or make it useful to a colony.

This was the fur trade, which, unhappily, engrossing all their attention, diverted them from giving due encouragement to agriculture, which, in a *new* country, is the only sure defence against either present or future evils.

The people, dreading to become the slaves of a proud and lazy noblesse, already possessed of exorbitant grants of land, and having before them, also, the fear of *religious*, added to *civil* oppressions, were but too ready to second the views of the Minister, and to follow the chase with eagerness, in the pursuit of furs, when they should have been employed in the cultivation of their lands: Thus was a colony, which, from its situation and local advantages, might have served as a bulwark to the French West India islands, rendered a mere  
K. burthen

burthen to the mother country, long before it was attacked and taken.

From the result of such mistaken policy, let other states learn wisdom. It is not the immediate profit arising from a favourite branch of commerce, that is to be considered, especially in a national point of view, but the probable and future consequences attending it. To place this matter in a still stronger point of light, let it be supposed, that all the inhabitants of Nova Scotia, instead of cutting down the woods, clearing their lands, and extending the fisheries, were to be altogether employed in hunting, in order to procure furs: It is asked, what the consequence would be? the answer is obvious; they might, for a short time, raise a considerable revenue, and the Province would probably, during that time, maintain itself; but, in the end, the nation would be impoverished, in providing a support for so many idle persons, and the colony itself be entirely ruined.

This



This trade must therefore be left entirely to itself, as every attempt to increase the quantity (if such attempts are not confined to the Indians) will be attended with a proportional decrease of more useful labour. It is just, however, to consider it as the third, though least important source of commerce, which nature has bestowed upon Nova Scotia; but, even as such, the fur trade must never be suffered to come in competition with the fisheries, or those advantages they may expect to reap from their woods, much less to interfere with the improvements of agriculture, which, with the two last, are fully sufficient to make this one of the most useful and flourishing settlements Great Britain has ever possessed.

By means of St John's river, and the rivers which discharge themselves into the Bay of Fundy at its head, the Indians will be able to bring their furs from all parts of the country that lie between the peninsula and the river St Laurence. There the game

game abounds; and, as the natives are the properest persons to be employed in this way, the advantages might be much extended, if a road was cut from the head of St John's River towards Quebec; and if intelligent persons were also sent to view that part of the country, (as being little frequented even by the Indians), in order to find out a situation fit for a settlement, and to prevent the trade from passing to the westward, which it possibly might do, if any navigable water extended that way.

Monopolies have been at all times hurtful to industry, and still more so to commerce. Every kind of restraint that is laid upon this trade must therefore hurt it, instead of answering the intended purpose of doing it good; and, like a plant left to its own native soil, if left to itself, it will be found to thrive the better. In fine, it is impossible the extent of the advantages can be ascertained which the province may receive from it. Thus far it may be affirmed,

ed, that it is a thing which, though capable of great improvement, has this farther to recommend it, that the perseverance of the inhabitants in giving encouragement to it, by trading upon reasonable terms with the Indians, is fully adequate to the purpose of rendering it, as much as possible, advantageous either to Great Britain or themselves.

## NEW



## NEW SETTLEMENTS, TOWNS, AND HARBOURS.

THE situation of this country, considered in every point of view, is far more advantageous for Great Britain to be possessed of than any other on the whole Continent of North America, whether in respect to its connection with Canada, Newfoundland, Cape Breton, St John's Island, and the fisheries, or to its being much nearer to the mother country than any other Province; and, above all, for the superior excellence and number of its harbours, creeks, and inlets; to which we may add the facility wherewith it can supply

ply our West India islands, in conjunction with Canada, with all the various kinds of lumber, live stock, fish, salt provisions, and flour, which they formerly purchased from the revolted colonies, and that at a cheaper rate than the latter can afford them, whilst the navigation laws of this kingdom are wisely permitted to act as they have hitherto done.

Many persons unacquainted with the nature of this country, and of those above mentioned, which still belong to us, and others equally blinded by prejudice, have formed to themselves a very disadvantageous idea, and represented the whole as unworthy the attention of government, and asserted, that very little of it is capable of cultivation or any kind of improvement. To such it may be sufficient to observe, that although the provisional treaty formed under the powerful intervention of France, has secured to the States of America large tracts of country, on which they never before

fore pretended to have the least claim; yet that what remains is of such value as to be capable, with judicious management, of rendering more essential benefit to Great Britain than was ever yet derived by her from any of the ancient colonies. Amongst other things it ought to be remembered, that the colonies south of Nova Scotia have very few harbours that can be compared with many possessed by the latter, if any at all, excepting that of Rhode Island, which is certainly the best in the territories of the United States: All the others have some material defect, either in point of situation, the towns upon them being commonly at too great a distance from the sea, or in being barred harbours, and incumbered with various dangers.

The province of Maine\*, as that part of the coast has generally been called, which lies

\* Perhaps no country in the world produces better timber of all kinds, for ship-building, as well as for masts and yards, which makes its loss the more regretted.



## TOWNS AND HARBOURS

lies to the eastward of the State of New Hampshire, and joins to Nova Scotia, was given up to the Americans at the late peace, though commonly supposed to be within the limits of the latter Province. It is thinly inhabited, but has some tolerably good harbours, where there are settlements, from which most of the lumber, formerly sent by the New Englanders to the West Indies, was procured, being cut by the saw mills at Mechios, and other places, forming a principal part of the commerce of the eastern colonies.

In making observations upon, and describing the different harbours and settlements, it will be most proper to begin at the place where the boundary line commences, and proceeding from thence to the head of the Bay of Fundy, return again to the westward in a contrary direction; and, after viewing the places most conspicuous, along the south shore of the peninsula, extend our

**L**et us now make some remarks

## 32 NEW SETTLEMENTS,

remarks to the eastmost extremity of the Province.

The line is supposed to commence upon the sea coast, in latitude  $45^{\circ} 10'$  N, longitude  $66^{\circ} 50'$  west of London, at the island of Grand Manan, which lies two leagues from the main land, on the north side, at the entrance into the Bay of Fundy, and has several small rocks, or islands, near it, on the south side, which form a harbour, where, at certain seasons of the year, the cod and seal fisheries may be prosecuted to advantage. The island is every where covered with good timber, but is entirely destitute of inhabitants, except some Indians who land upon it occasionally. It is about fourteen miles in length, and nine in breadth, very steep and craggy on all sides, but covered with an excellent soil, capable of amply rewarding the labours that are necessary for its cultivation; however, it is not yet known whether it is to belong to Great Britain or to America.

In

In sight of the above island, and 10 miles distant from it, is a large and deep bay, which still retains its Indian name of Passamaquoddy, having a great number of islands at its entrance, of various dimensions, the principal of which, called Campo Bello, has several loyalists settled upon it, and some tilled land.

The harbours that lie within the bay are equal in goodness to any in the world, and alike fitted for carrying on the lumber trade to the West Indies, the fisheries and ship-building. The facility of constructing docks and ships, for the latter purpose, is perfectly obvious, having great store of good timber every where in the neighbourhood of the bay, as well as a very considerable rise and fall of the tide, which, though not so great as at St John's River, and other places farther up the Bay of Fundy, contributes to render the situation superior to them in a comparative view, when ship-building is considered as the principal thing



## 84 NEW SETTLEMENTS,

to which the attention of the loyalists in this quarter ought to be directed.

The upper end of Passamaquoddy Bay terminates in a river called St Croix, which branches out into three distinct channels, and these making considerable angles with each other, have caused a misunderstanding between the persons appointed to settle the limits of both countries, as the line between them was to be drawn from the head of this river, and it remains undecided which of the three branches is to be called the head. The lands in general that lie round about them are not only very good, but the superior excellence of the timber makes it an object to this country to contend seriously for every foot of territory to which she is entitled.

St Andrews is a handsome town built by the loyalists upon the river above mentioned, consisting of 600 houses, the situation of which, though in some respects well chosen,

chosen, is certainly at too great a distance from the sea, and, besides this disadvantage, has only six feet water in its harbour upon the ebb tide. No place, as has been observed before, in the whole Province is better situated for ship-building. They have the cod fishery even at their doors, and possess the singular advantage of being scarcely ever incommoded with the fogs which prevail on many other parts of the coast several months in the year. The inhabitants at St. Andrews, and in its vicinity, amount to upwards of three thousand of all sorts; and no people on the continent are capable of being more usefully industrious in proportion to their numbers.

Beaver harbour is a small port, 3 leagues east of Passamaquoddy, settled by the refugees, about 800 in number, who have built a town upon it, the situation of which seems

\* The great number of islands lying in the bay break and disperse the fogs, causing them to rise in form of vapour.



## 86 NEW SETTLEMENTS, TOWNS AND HARBOURS.

The town is built upon the east side of the harbour, within two miles of Fairbridge, which is directly opposite to the island which is the source of the river. The entrance of the river is perfectly sheltered from all winds and perfectly secure in the whole Province is never before.

From this place to St John's River, E. N. E. distant 12 leagues, the land appears moderately high and rocky, with a bold shore, entirely free from danger, but destitute of any other than one small harbour, only capable of sheltering fishing vessels against all winds. Off the mouth of St John's river, lies a small island, high, rocky, and covered with wood, near to which ships must pass, in going in or out of the river; and as it lies at a small distance from the main land, is equally fitted to afford protection to the river against an enemy, and for the erection of a light-house, to guide ships in passing up and down the bay, being very conspicuous for several leagues.

The



## TOWNS AND HARBOURS: 37

The town is built upon the east side of the harbour, within two miles of Partridge island, which, lying directly opposite to the entrance of the river, breaks off the sea, and perfectly shelters it from all winds.

The river, a mile above the town, by being confined between some rocks that in-  
croach upon it considerably, though of a great depth, has a large fall or rapid, particularly upon the ebb tide. When the flood has risen 12 feet in the harbour below, the falls are smooth, and continue to be passable for about 20 minutes, and the river is navigable from hence upwards of 70 miles, for vessels of 80 to 100 tons burthen. In times of great freshets, when the rains fall, and the snows melt in the country, which is commonly from the middle of April to the beginning of June, the falls are absolutely impassable to vessels bound up the river \*, as the tide does not rise to their

\* At the distance of sixty miles from the sea, the  
river

## 38 NEW SETTLEMENTS,

their level, and the strong current, which runs continually down through the harbour at that season, frequently prevents vessels that are bound in from entering, unless assisted by a fair wind.

The town consists of upwards of two thousand houses, many of which are large and spacious, and being built upon a neck of land, almost entirely surrounded by the sea, is thereby rendered exceeding pleasant. The streets have been regularly laid out, are from 50 to 60 feet in breadth, and cross each other at right angles, corresponding with the four cardinal points, every house possessing 60 feet in front by 120 in depth,

river communicates with a large piece of water, situated on its east side, and called the Grand Lake. It is of various depths, is navigable into the river, whose tide rises four feet perpendicular in it, has good lands on its borders, and is well stored with fish; pit coal, of a quality superior to that at Cape Breton, has lately been discovered, and brought to Parrrtown from thence.

depth, makes it capable of becoming one of the best cities in the New World, as the ground whereon it is built is of a moderate height, and rises gradually from the water.

No place on the north side of the Bay of Fundy possesses equal advantages with this, for becoming a place of general trade; the river extending not only much further into the country, than any other in the Province, but likewise has upon its banks large tracts of land, equal in goodness to any in America, for raising both corn and live-stock; while its woods, abounding with the best of timber, will enable it to carry on a trade for lumber with the West Indies, and to vie with New England in the ship-building business, which was one of its principal branches of commerce before the rebellion. When the woods on the lands near the river are cut down, and a sufficient quantity cleared, a business, which in the hands of the loyalists, is making rapid advances, the quantity of cattle

M

raised



## 90 NEW SETTLEMENTS.

raised in this part of Nova Scotia will certainly be very great, both for home consumption and exportation\*.

Amongst other advantages possessed by this settlement, it ought not to be considered as the least, that a very considerable property was imported, together with a number of respectable merchants, from New York, at the evacuation of that city, whose unremitting industry and perseverance has embellished the town with a great many fine houses, the harbour with several fine quays and wharfs, and they already possess 60 sail of vessels, some of which are employed in carrying on trade with the West Indies, and the rest in the whale and cod fisheries. Most of the furtrade

that

\* This assertion stands upon a very solid foundation.

The great improvements in agriculture, which the Canadian colony, settled at Mauderville, 50 miles up the river, have made in a few years, confirms it in the most ample manner.

## TOWNS, AND HARBOURS. 91

that can ever take place on this side of the Province, must naturally center here, as no other navigable water extends far inland, besides St John's river. Very good masts for the royal navy are cut at the distance of 50, 60, and 70 miles from the sea, as large as to 12\* inches diameter, which are collected by persons appointed by government, below the falls, from whence they are shipped off for the King's dock-yards in England.

The harbour has from seven to ten fathoms water, with good holding ground, and an excellent beach for landing goods, and graving or repairing vessels of the largest

\* It is surely bad policy to mark all the large fir-trees for the use of government, without allowing any thing in consideration of damages to the proprietor of the lands, where such trees grow; as, in this case, they will not be ever solicitous for the preservation of the large timber.

gest size \*. Opposite to the town, on the other side of the harbour, is a small settlement, called Carleton, built and inhabited by the loyalists, amongst whom are a considerable number of ship carpenters, whose talents have already exerted themselves in building many vessels; whilst the large quantity of fine timber on every part of the river, equal in goodness to that of New England, and almost any other province in America, is not only a proof of their situation being very properly chosen, but a sure prognostic of the advantages which this place derives from ship-building.

To all the above recited advantages may be added the extent of population, which exceeds

\* Like almost all the other harbours of Nova Scotia, this place never freezes up; and, when the river is broken up above the falls, after being frozen during the winter, the great force of the tides dashes the ice so entirely in pieces, that it is never known to do any damage to the shipping below.



ceeds ten thousand persons of all denominations, among whom are several regiments disbanded at the late peace, that are not only highly respectable for their numbers, and their industry, but still more so, if possible, from their forming a very strong barrier to the colony against the subjects of the United States. A small fortification, called Fort-Howe, defends the town, but is too inconsiderable to withstand a regular attack, being very small, and entirely destitute of out-works. The river has in it a number of islands, which, even at this time, afford pasture for a great number of cattle; so that, when more land is cleared, a far greater portion of live-stock will be raised, than the inhabitants can consume, the soil being generally very good, and capable of great improvement.

Twelve leagues further up the Bay of Fundy E. N. E. from St John's River, is a small settlement belonging to the loyalists, called Quako. About six hundred persons

are

## 94 NEW SETTLEMENTS,

are here, who have very wisely directed their attention to agriculture, their lands being generally accounted good, whilst, on the contrary, they have no place fit to shelter vessels in, especially when southerly winds prevail. The timber of all kinds is very good, and the country abounds with game.

Eleven leagues east from the last mentioned place, the Bay of Fundy, after carrying every where in its course a great depth of water, and continuing from fifteen to six leagues wide, is suddenly divided by the land into two distinct arms, the largest of which, called the Basin of Mines, takes its course nearly due east for almost eighty miles, but having the rise and fall of the tide continually encreasing as it advances, so as to be equal to 70 feet perpendicular \* at

its

\* This great rise of the tide renders several rivers both in this, and the north east branch of the bay, navigable a long way into the country. What may be thought

its head, and receiving the waters of several rivers, which from thence penetrate considerably into the country. All these rivers have settlements upon them, the inhabitants of which amount to upwards of 4000. The lands in the environs of Mines Bason are very good, and have store of timber, particularly on the south side, and continue so almost all the way to Halifax, from which it is distant upwards of 40 miles. The other head is called Chignecto Bay \*, taking its course N. E. from where the separation commences, for about 50 miles, receiving the waters of several rivers which discharge themselves into it, one of them being pretty considerable, called Petudiac, where thought remarkable, is this, that the tides from the Gulf of St Laurence in Vert Bay, rise only eight feet, and yet it is but twenty miles distant, being divided from each other by a narrow neck of land.

\* Oysters have been discovered here, and are now become an article of export to several places.



where about 2000 loyalists are settled, and have the appearance of being a thriving colony. Many advantages are held out to persons that are obliged to settle in this Province, whose views are not solely confined to trade, but who wish to attend to agriculture, and the raising cattle, as most of the lands round the head of the Bay are very good, having been formerly possessed and cultivated by the ancient French colonists, distinguished by the name of Neutrals \*, whose industry had been crowned

with  
 \* This people, descended from the ancient French settlers, had increased gradually to several thousands, clearing large tracts of land, and raising numerous herds of cattle, living many years in the most perfect friendship with the native Indians, amongst whom they frequently intermarried, and became in a manner one people. Unfortunately for themselves, by engaging in all the quarrels that were agitated from time to time between Great Britain and France, they became an object of resentment to the former, who, having caused them to be assembled together under various pretences,

with a degree of success not always equalled, and but seldom exceeded by the inhabitants of the southern colonies; nor can it be doubted, but that the persons in whose hands they now are, will very speedily render them an object of jealousy to their New England neighbours. There is a small fort,

N formerly

caused several thousands to be shipped off, and transported to the other colonies, where most of them died of grief and vexation. This action, sufficiently cruel in itself, was rendered still more so, from having been perpetrated in consequence of positive orders from a nation commonly regarded, even by its enemies, as magnanimous. Let us attend to the event. The lands from which the Neutrals were thus violently torn, became a desert, and every attempt to re-people them was constantly rendered abortive, until a large body of men inhabiting those very colonies to which the Neutrals had been banished, were driven in like manner from their own country for a similar attachment to Great Britain, and compelled to cultivate the lands left by the former, as if it was the express intention of providence, in this particular instance, to mark in strong colours the injustice of a great nation, as well as to teach mankind a lesson of moderation and humanity.

formerly called St. Laurence\*, and now Fort-Cumberland, built upon the isthmus which joins the peninsula to the main land, and, though of no great account at present, may, in a more improved state, be looked upon as the key of Nova Scotia against the invasion of a land army. Returning from hence down the bay of Fundy to the westward, there is no harbour until nearly opposite to St. John's river, when we find Annapolis Royal†, which has one of the noblest harbours in the world, perfectly sheltered from all winds, the entrance into it being

\* It was attacked at the beginning of the late troubles in America; but the party concerned in that affair met with a deserved repulse, and were entirely defeated.

† This place, when in the hands of the French, was fortified, and called Port Royal, being intended for the capital of the province. At the peace of Utrecht, it was ceded to Great Britain, and was called by its present name, in honour of Queen Anne. Its fortifications at present are but indifferent.



ing between two capes or head lands, with from 20 to 30 fathoms water. This entrance is near a mile wide, and has a strong current both upon the ebb and flood-tides; the shore at the same time being so steep, that a ship may run her bow-sprit against the rocks, and yet be in 10 fathoms water. Immediately within this strait is a large piece of water, called Annapolis Bason, capable of holding a considerable number of ships, with a sufficient depth of water for vessels of any size, and at least 20 miles in circumference, entirely sheltered from all winds. On this bason, a very handsome town, called Digby, has been built by the loyalists; the situation of it is exceedingly well chosen, both for the fisheries and every other kind of trade adapted to the Province. A small settlement is also forming at the mouth of Bear River, near Digby, by some Germans, formerly belonging to the auxiliary troops during the war in America.

From the Bason to Annapolis Royal, it is about 12 miles, upon a deep and narrow river,

## 100 NEW SETTLEMENTS,

river, in which there is a great rise and fall of the tide. Both sides of it are well peopled, and in many places are highly improved. A small island, half way between the Basin and the town, may be easily made to command the navigation of the river entirely, as nothing can pass either up or down without going close in with it.

Since the arrival of the loyalists, amounting to 2500, the town has increased to six times its former dimensions, the country about it clearing fast of the woods, having received an increase of population, unknown in any former period. The raising black cattle will probably be one of their principal employments, as the inhabitants who came here prior to the war, not only raise the largest and best cattle of any in the Province, but equal to any in America, except Rhode Island and Connecticut; so

that of the two states here mentioned; the time, indeed, seems to be at no great distance, when the New Englanders will have sufficient cause to regret their having \* The people who have lived many years on Annapolis River are confident, that, when they have better opportunities

## TOWNS AND HARBOURS. 101

that they will be able in a little time, together with the people of St John's river, to raise all the live-stock, or nearly so, that will be wanted for the West India market. The anchorage off the town is very good, and on the side next the river, the fort which defends the harbour is of some consideration, but totally inadequate to a defence toward the land.

Passing south-west from Annapolis Royal, we come to St Mary's bay, which is of considerable depth, and beginning to assume the form of a settlement. The lands every where about it are covered with excellent timber of various kinds; and as the loyalists settled here have some vessels, they have already opportunities of mixing the breed of their cattle with that of other countries, they shall be able to equal those of the two states here mentioned; the time, indeed, seems to be at no great distance, when the New Englanders will have sufficient cause to repent their having driven into exile some of their best farmers.



## 102 NEW SETTLEMENTS

already shipped off a number of cargoes for different ports, although no colony had attempted to settle here, until after the evacuation of New York. From St Mary's bay, the coast lies nearly north and south. Its south-westmost extremity, lying exposed to the waves of the whole western ocean, is very much broken and ragged; while the seal islands, whose dangerous situation has been already mentioned, lie within sight of the land, and afford a disagreeable prospect, even in moderate weather, from the many currents that are known to prevail around them\*.

A considerable number of persons were settled before the late war at this end of the peninsula, on a small river†, where there is a town called Yarmouth. They have employed themselves successfully in farming, and had even made some progress in  
 \* The necessity of having a light-house erected upon them can never be too often repeated.

† Tufchet River, lat.  $43^{\circ} 44'$  N. long.  $65^{\circ} 50'$  W.

in the cod fishery, when the capture of several of their vessels by the Americans put a stop to their exertions in that line. They have since renewed them, and, with the addition of some loyalists, are carrying on a trade with Halifax in fish, lumber, corn, and cattle, particularly sheep. The lands in the neighbourhood, which appeared at first but indifferent, being found, within these few years, to improve very rapidly, so that, in proportion to the number of settlers, few places in the province bid fairer for prosperity.

From the southern extremity of the peninsula the coast ranges nearly E. N. E. and W. S. W. with very little variation, quite to Cape Canso, its easternmost extremity, which is near to the island of Cape Breton, and containing, in a space of about 300 miles, a number of very excellent harbours at a small distance from each other all along the coast. It will, however, be proper to mention only such among them as are most distinguished,

## 104 NEW SETTLEMENTS,

distinguished, either for their superior goodness, the extent of their population, or the advances they have already made in agriculture or commerce.

The first place, east of the Seal Islands, which deserves notice is the town of Barrington, consisting of about 4000 inhabitants, mostly settled there before the war, and chiefly engaged in the fisheries and coasting trade, for which their situation seems well adapted, being the southermost settlement in the Province. Their harbour, however, is but small, and at certain times somewhat difficult of access; and the lands round the harbour being esteemed indifferent, has induced the loyalists that have come here not to confine their attention to farming alone; but as yet their number is inconsiderable.

Six leagues north-east of Barrington Bay is the town of Shelburn, built upon the harbour of Port Roseway, latitude  $43^{\circ} 47' N$ .  
longitude



longitude  $65^{\circ} 16'$  West from London, inhabited by a numerous colony, perhaps the most so that any nation can boast of in modern times\*. The harbour is not exceeded by any one in America for goodness, having every where six or seven fathoms water from the sea to the town, the distance not being more than eight miles, with scarcely any current either in or out; whilst a large island lying in the entrance shuts it in so entirely from danger, that no wind whatever can do the least prejudice to ships riding at anchor.

The town is, perhaps, one of the largest in the new world, containing almost 3000 houses regularly built, having 15 streets in right lines from north to south, and 30 from east to west, crossing the former at right angles; the number of inhabitants amounting to 13,000. Opposite to Shel-

O burn

\* The population of Shelburn, and its neighbourhood, is nearly equal to 30,000; before the war it did not exceed 50 persons.

burn is Birch-town, peopled by the negroes from New York, about 1400 in number, whose labours have been found extremely useful to the white inhabitants, chiefly in reducing very considerably the price of work and various materials the produce of the country. The lands are greatly improved, and have, in several places, produced fine crops of wheat, barley, and oats, as well as of garden herbs, and dwarf fruits, as currants, &c. The good effects of their being possessed of a large capital shews itself very plainly in the great number of shipping belonging to the merchants, nearly equalling that of Halifax itself, being at least 300 sail of all sorts, several of which are employed in the whale fishery, a still greater number to the West Indies, and the rest in the cod fishery upon the banks that are upon the coast of the Province. The pilots, who are employed by the British fleets in North America, during the war, are settled upon the harbour half way between the sea and the town. Govern-  
ment,



ment, wisely considering how obnoxious these men had rendered themselves to the rebels, have allotted them half pay during the rest of their lives; a measure equally just and necessary, most of them being formerly possessed of property in the United States. No people amongst the loyalists have exerted themselves more successfully than they, in rendering their present situation comfortable. All the country, for several miles about, is exceedingly populous, particularly upon Indian River, 5 miles east of Port Roseway, noted for an extraordinary salmon fishery, where large tracts of land are cleared, and produce very good wheat and barley.

The river itself is only fit for vessels of 12 feet draft of water to enter, but has three saw mills erected upon it by the new Colonists, that are kept going night and day for the merchants at Port Roseway, who are constantly shipping off lumber to the

West



108 NEW SETTLEMENTS,

West Indies, both from these mills, and two others, lately erected above Shelburn. From this place, a creek communicates with a large fresh water lake several miles distant, the borders of which are capable of feeding numerous herds of cattle, and are clothed with fine woods, consisting of birch, maple, spruce, pine, and red oak; a great many loyalists, convinced of the goodness of the lands, are employed clearing the woods, and converting them into lumber. Two churches are built at Port Roseway, one for the people of the Presbyterian persuasion, and the other for those of the church of England. All kinds of fresh provisions are tolerably cheap; butcher meat being upon an average at fourpence *per lb.* and flour and bread in proportion. Many large wharfs, and convenient store-houses, are erected for landing and securing goods; their trade, particularly to the British West-Indies, having increased very rapidly within the last eighteen months. Below

low the town, and upon the same side of the harbour, the lands quite down to the sea, have been divided into 50 acre lots; so that a vast number of vessels have been built by the proprietors, chiefly for the fishing business, and some of them as large as to 250 tons burthen; 70 sail were upon the stocks in October last; and it is conjectured that near 400 sail will have been finished by this time, since the evacuation of New York, at this one settlement alone.

Port Matoon, or Gambier harbour, is 7 leagues east of Jordan River, and nine distant from Shelburn. It affords but very indifferent shelter to some fishing vessels belonging to other places, having only two or three of its own, and very few inhabitants. The soil for several miles round is full of rocks and stones; and the most barren of any in the province, producing a scanty vegetation, and appearing incapable of ever being cultivated. One of the regiments



## 110 NEW SETTLEMENTS,

giments\*, which had served with distinguished reputation during the war in America, began a settlement here, and built a town in the autumn of the year 1783, which, unfortunately for them, being somewhat too late, and the ground consequently covered with snow, prevented their observing the nature of the soil until the following spring. Their town at this time consisted of upwards of 300 houses, and the number of people was something more than eight hundred; they, seeing the sterile appearance of their lands, and all their hopes, of course, frustrated, were meditating on the best means of getting away to other places, when an accidental fire †, which

\* The British legion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton.

† The summer of 1784 had been uncommonly dry, and many large fires were seen burning in the woods in various places, devouring considerable tracts, in almost every direction, occasioned either by the carelessness

of



which entirely consumed their town to ashes, with all their live stock, furniture, and wearing apparel, filled up the measure of their calamities, and rendered them perfectly miserable. Since that time, Port Matoon

of the Indians, or that of the White people at their work in the woods, by neglecting to extinguish their fires; the ground at the same time being quite dry and covered with moss and decaying vegetables. A poor woman at Guysburgh (the name the Loyalists had given the place) was undesignedly the cause of the misfortune; the fire after it was once kindled, spreading so rapidly, and burning with such fury, as rendered all attempts to divert or stop its progress quite ineffectual; destroying in a few minutes almost every house, and driving the inhabitants before it into the water, whilst one man, more unfortunate than the rest, perished in the flames. Scarcely any, even of their domestic animals, escaped out of it. In short, a more complete destruction from that merciless element, never befell any set of men; and if a king's ship had not been dispatched immediately from Halifax, with provisions to their relief, a famine must have ensued, from which very few could have escaped. On her arrival, she found them without houses, without money, and without even bread.

## 112 NEW SETTLEMENTS.

Matoon has had very few inhabitants, and never can become a settlement of any extent; those persons who suffered by the conflagration have mostly removed to Chedabucto bay, in the easternmost extremity of the province; a situation much better suited to their deserts, and promising some consolation in the midst of their sufferings.

Liverpool is a small, but safe and convenient harbour, capable of receiving vessels from 250 to 300 tons burthen, and is not more than three leagues east of Port Mattoon. It has been several years settled, and undergone considerable improvements, and has a small river above the town, which runs a good way into the country. The vessels that belong to it, are mostly employed in fishing, and carrying on a trade to Halifax, Shelburn, and some other places, in cattle and provisions. The inhabitants, whose settlements extend far above the town, have had their numbers considerably augmented, by some of the Loyalists from  
Port

Port Matoon and other places, so that their population is very little short of 1200 of all sorts, who are in every respect an industrious and thriving colony.

Lunenburg is a fine town, and respectable colony, founded by some Germans in the year 1763. It is 70 miles N. E. from Shelburn, and 36 S. W. from Halifax, which place it supplies with cord wood for fuel, having a great number of small vessels, employed in that and the cod fisheries: It also sends some lumber to the West Indies; and no place in the peninsula, notwithstanding the unpromising appearance of the lands, at their first settlement, is in so prosperous a way, excepting the two places above mentioned. Industry and perseverance have rendered it highly flourishing; while the primitive simplicity of their manners, which remain uncorrupted to the present time, have very much endeared them all to their neighbours.

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## 114 NEW SETTLEMENTS,

The lands about Lunenburg are greatly improved; and their population, which was, at first, about 3000 persons, may be estimated at nearly three times that number at present.

Le Have is a settlement that ought to have been mentioned before Lunenburg. It had a number of inhabitants, upon its river, in detached situations, some time before the war, who have been greatly increased, and whose settlements appear to be well adapted for carrying on a trade with the British West Indies, for fish and lumber.

Halifax, the capital of Nova Scotia, and seat of the legislature, is in lat.  $44^{\circ} 40'$  N. long.  $63^{\circ} 30'$  W. from London, nearly in the center of the south side of the peninsula, 36 leagues N. E. of Shelburn; built upon the west side of a safe and spacious harbour, which is perfectly sheltered from all winds, at the distance of 12 miles from  
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the sea, and where a thousand sail of ships, may ride without the least danger. Upon it there are built a great number of commodious wharfs, which have from 12 to 18 feet water at all times of the tide, for the convenience of loading and unloading ships. The streets of the town are regularly laid out, and cross each other at right angles, the whole rising gradually from the water upon the side of a hill, whose top is regularly fortified, but not so as to be able to withstand a regular attack. Many considerable merchants reside at this place, and are possessed of shipping to the amount of several thousand tons, employed in a flourishing trade both with Europe and the West Indies. It was founded by the English in 1754, and, notwithstanding the poverty of the soil, has at length attained a degree of splendor that bids fair to rival the first cities in the revolted colonies; for which it has been equally indebted to the late war, to the great increase of population from the exiled Loyalists,

## 116 NEW SETTLEMENTS,

alists, and the fostering care of Great Britain; insomuch, that the number of the inhabitants has been more than doubled during the last ten years.

There is a small, but excellent careening yard for ships of the Royal Navy, that are upon this station, or that may have occasion to come in to refit, and take water, fuel, or fresh provisions on board, in their passage to and from the West Indies. It is always kept well provided with naval stores, and ships of the line are hove down, and repaired with the greatest ease and safety. Several batteries of heavy cannon command the harbour, particularly those that are placed upon George's island, which being very steep and high, and situated in mid-channel, a little way below the town, is well calculated to annoy vessels in any direction; as they must of necessity pass very near it, before they are capable of doing any mischief.

Above



Above the careening yard, which is at the upper end of the town, there is a large basin, or piece of water, communicating with the harbour below, near 20 miles in circumference, and capable of containing the whole Navy of England, entirely sheltered from all winds, and having only one narrow entrance, which, as we observed before, leads into the harbour. There are a number of detached settlements lately formed by the Loyalists upon the basin; the lands at a small distance from the water being generally thought better than those near to Halifax; but what success may attend their labours, will require some time to determine. An elegant and convenient building has been erected near the town, for the convalescents of the navy; but the healthiness of the climate has as yet prevented many persons from becoming patients, scarcely any ships in the world being so free from complaints of every kind, in regard to health, as those that are employed upon this station. There is a  
very

## 118 NEW SETTLEMENTS,

very fine light-house, standing upon a small island, just off the entrance of the harbour, which is visible, either by night or day, 6 or 7 leagues off at sea.

East from Halifax, the coast lies much the same as before, and, in the extent of 50 leagues from thence to Cape Canso, contains as many harbours, most of which are very good, and at a small distance from each other; hardly any one, amidst so great a number, is to be found wholly uninhabited; but there are few of the settlements upon them as yet formed into towns, or that possess much shipping: The population is generally from 50 to 100 families, most of whom are successfully employed in the cultivation of their lands; hence a particular description or enumeration of them becomes unnecessary, except our observations were extended to matters in which navigators alone are concerned.

Cape Canso is the easternmost extremity  
of

of the province. The ground about it is much broken, and greatly in want of a light-house, as there is a small, but navigable strait of some length, which separates Nova Scotia from the island of Cape Breton, communicating immediately with the gulph and river of St Laurence, thereby tending to facilitate the commerce between all parts of the remaining colonies. It is near this place that the Loyalists have built a town, and formed a considerable settlement, at the bottom of Chedabucto bay, and at a small distance from Cape Canso, which is seemingly well chosen to become a place of some consequence, being equally adapted for carrying on the cod and salmon fisheries upon an enlarged scale, as the misfortune which happened to the refugees at Port Matoon has added considerably to their population.

The woods thereabouts are equally good, and as well fitted for carrying on a trade in lumber as any part of America. The  
lands



lands having been formerly possessed, at least some districts, by the unhappy French Neutrals, were in a high state of cultivation, of which very few tokens remain at present. From Chedabucto bay, the coast runs away to the north-west nearly, towards the mouth of the river St Laurence, where the land becomes very high and mountainous, but it is not entirely destitute of harbours, that were formerly inhabited by the French, though almost entirely deserted prior to the late war, are now partaking of that increasing population, which is observable in all other parts. Fine tracts of land, equal in goodness to most parts in the northern states, extend almost the whole way, from the gut of Canso, to the entrance of the river St Lawrence, and their woods are still entire, and seem almost inexhaustible. Soon after passing the straits of Canso, the island of St John becomes visible, and may be seen from Nova Scotia. It has two or three good harbours, and one large town, besides several

veral smaller ones. Its population amounts to near 5000 persons of all sorts, most of whom have settled there since the commencement of the war. Large tracts of woods have been cut down, and a part of them already exported to the British West Indies. The lands in general are not so high above the level of the sea, as those of the neighbouring provinces, but are accounted fertile in grain, and afford very good pasture for horses and horned cattle.

## Q **TRADE**

## TRADE AND NAVIGATION.

**A**T a time when all the nations of the earth seem to vie with each other in extending their commerce, increasing the manufactures carried on by their respective inhabitants, or inventing new ones; when the monarchs of Europe, attempting to disguise their ambitious and sanguinary views upon each other's dominions, affect the same pursuits, and pretending to forget the animosities which have agitated their kingdoms against each other for many ages, appear only desirous of contributing to the ease and happiness of the people, over whom Providence has permitted them



them to become the sovereigns; when a portion of the British Empire upon the continent of the New World, has been violently rent asunder from the crown of these kindgoms, the inhabitants of which, forgetting, in the triumph of independence, and amidst the exultation natural to people in the infancy of empire, the hand that protected and raised them to maturity, have studiously endeavoured to throw whatever can be considered as of weight or importance, in respect to themselves, into the hands of a powerful and rival neighbour, and, not satisfied with this, are discontented at being denied the privilege of becoming the carriers of the produce of her remaining islands and colonies: It will surely be for her interest, to avoid entering into any measures, that can tend to lessen her manufactures, commerce, or marine, as it is upon the preservation of these alone that the British kingdoms can depend for happiness and security at home, and peace and respect from abroad.

To

To trace the first rise, and the subsequent progress of the manufactures, commerce, and revenues of England to any distant period, would be foreign to our purpose; it will be sufficient to observe, that in proportion as these have flourished, from the time of Queen Elizabeth to the present day, the naval power of the kingdom has increased with it, so as at length to present to the world a spectacle of opulence and grandeur, which unfortunately, whilst it gave umbrage to the pride, excited the resentment of all the powers of Europe, and frequently hurried them on to attempt the destruction of a marine, which appeared from time to time upon the ocean, almost too formidable to be resisted: Baffled in this favourite plan, astonished at the inexhaustible resources with which her almost boundless commerce supplied the exigencies of war, and awed by that unbroken spirit so visible in the resistance, and the victories of her fleets and armies, the world beheld a singular phaenomenon, unequalled in

in the page of history! a nation distracted with intestine factions, and oppressed with a load of debt, which threatened the annihilation of her existence; opposing in every quarter of the globe the hostile attacks of more than half of Europe, and, amidst the unequal contest, securely protecting her trade, conveying in safety the immense property of her merchants to the most distant regions, and increasing her manufactures, commerce, and revenues, while that of her enemies was languishing and decreasing daily.

The advantages possessed by Great Britain, both as to her local situation, climate, and genius of the inhabitants, were better understood and sooner profited by, than perhaps any other nation; and, while the events alluded to above are still recent, let it not be forgotten to what they were chiefly owing; and, if the recollection of such excites pleasing reflections, it can never be too often repeated, that those laws,  
and



and the principles of them, which have raised these islands to their present greatness, will without doubt, if once relaxed, have a contrary effect, and plunge us into the very depth of wretchedness and misery; since a decrease of shipping must of necessity be attended with a proportional loss of revenue, of seamen, and of national confidence, which in the present state of things is the chief bulwark of the kingdom.

That memorable law, the act of navigation, was probably framed at first, with a mixture of just discernment, as well as of invidious partiality, the latter of which, far from making against it, is a strong argument in its favour. The Dutch were no doubt kept in sight when it was enacted; they were, become, in a manner, the carriers of all the trade of Europe; since that time their navy has been constantly upon the decline, for want of a similar law, though its excessive weakness was not apparent until the late war discovered it.

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That of Britain has risen in proportion, and has not yet, perhaps, attained its meridian glory.

If then the simple requisitions of that law, enjoining all our national shipping to be British built, and to be manned with at least two thirds of seamen born in the dominions of England, have produced such mighty effects, what could equal the folly of giving them up? Considered in this view, the propriety and justness of which is incontestible, it is not seamen only, nor yet the revenue in addition to it, that would be the only loss sustained. If ship-building is, indeed, a manufacture, it should receive every encouragement from a commercial state; but, if the sale of American vessels be permitted, and they are allowed to become British bottoms, upon being transferred into the hands of British merchants, is it not plain, that the building of ships in America must be greatly extended, and, consequently, by drawing many  
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of our shipwrights thither, deprive this country of a most useful body of men, in the hour of public exigence. Without, therefore, entering into a comparative view of the superior goodness of ships built in Europe, to those of America, as it is obvious to all the world, and particularly noticed by seamen, it will suffice to observe, that the colonies remaining to Great Britain are fully adequate to the building a far greater number of vessels, than can ever be wanted for the carrying trade, between the Continent of America and the West Indies; that they have within themselves the means of supplying every article wanted by the British islands from thence, as well lumber and fish, as corn, flour, live stock, and other provisions; and, consequently, that instead of throwing any part of our carrying trade into the hands of foreigners, the advantages of it may be made to center in the King's dominions, to the benefit of individuals, and the general good of the state.

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The view that has been exhibited already of only a part of the territories remaining to us upon that continent, considered under their several heads, may serve, as they really are intended, to illustrate and confirm the truth of these assertions. Long unknown, and generally disesteemed, the whole was regarded as a desert almost unfit for habitation, or the residence of the human species. We affected to despise a country, with whose worth we were unacquainted, and rested satisfied in an unpardonable degree of ignorance. Canada was equally neglected, though possessed of a luxuriant soil, a territory almost unbounded, the noblest woods, rivers without number, and lakes equal to the seas of Europe in extent, and probably in usefulness; it was considered with a gloomy satisfaction that bordered on malevolence. The folly and the misfortunes of the French nation lost them the possession of a Province, to the importance of which they had been, until that moment, strangers.

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The islands of Cape Breton and Newfoundland, though in conjunction with Nova Scotia, are the key of the fisheries, were as much disregarded as Canada itself. The first was entirely deserted immediately after the destruction of Louisburgh, the capital, and no attempts were made to people the latter; so that both remained a prey to the first invader. If then such ample possessions are left to Britain, it will be true wisdom to improve and encourage them, especially as the war itself, however destructive in other respects, has added so greatly to their population; many citizens, independent of those upon whom sentence of banishment has been passed by their countrymen, having come voluntarily to reside upon the lands guaranteed to them by a constitution, that is equally free from the despotism of kings, and the abuses of a democracy.

In the produce of the Province it will be seen how far she is able, as well as Canada,

nada, to carry on a trade with Great Britain and the West Indies.

The great quantities of whale oil consumed by many manufactures, in every part of Europe as well as in England, make it of the highest importance to this nation to bestow upon it every encouragement, both in her European dominions and in the remaining colonies, the inhabitants of which are possessed of sufficient capital, and of that enterprising spirit necessary for arduous undertakings. They have, among other advantages, a larger proportion of seamen than any one of the States, except Massachusetts Bay, over whom their shipping must soon become superior, if the present laws relative to this article and the act of navigation are continued in force. They operate as a prohibition upon foreign train oil, and have this further to recommend them, that no branch of our trade breeds hardier or better seamen than the ships employed in the whale fishery. Several

towns



towns are already engaged in this business, particularly Halifax, Port Roseway, and at St John's River ; which, with those of Canada, will soon put an end to that of Nantucket, as no market can be found equal to that of Great Britain, either as to the price of the commodity, or the great bounties given by the English Parliament.

The Dutch take a great quantity off our hands, a large part of which goes to France ; and, when the most of this trade was in the hands of the New Englanders and Nantucket men, their annual returns were little short of L. 150,000 for several years before the war. Canada, particularly the lower parts, or those nearest the sea, afford considerable quantities of oil, that may be greatly increased from their enlarged population, as the gulph and river of St Laurence, and the adjacent seas, abound with seals and white porpoises ; their oil is already obtained in large quantities, and is generally

generally of a better quality than that of the whale.

**COD FISHERY.** The remaining colonies and islands have an evident advantage over every other people in this branch, being much nearer by several days sail to the banks, than the fishermen of New England, and can at all times dry their fish on shore, a privilege which, though granted to the Americans, by the 3d article of the provisional treaty; yet, as that article mentions only uninhabited bays and harbours, and very few can be found in that state, they have not attempted to avail themselves of this advantage.

Too much encouragement can never be bestowed upon the cod fishery by Great Britain, as, next to the coal and coasting trade, she receives from it the best and most useful body of her seamen, and who are scarcely to be equalled, and cannot be exceeded, by any in the world. It may, in every

every sense, be considered as a species of manufacture, which, independent of the seamen it raises for our marine, employs a great number of persons in ship-building, and in curing the fish on shore, thereby adding to the population, and, consequently, to the real riches of the state. Before the late war, scarcely 500 men were employed in the fishery of this Province; but, since the emigration from the other provinces, their number is encreased in the various stages of it to little short of 10,000, a sure proof of the height to which the cod fishery may be carried, and the fair prospect there is of their increasing population becoming the means of their successfully rivalling, and even underselling, other nations in foreign markets. Whilst the colonies that are now the United States were considered as British, it was common for them to purchase from Newfoundland and Nova Scotia large quantities of fish, caught and cured by those provinces, for which they generally gave in exchange rum that had been



been manufactured in Boston, and other places upon the Continent, from melasses the growth of the French West India islands. This spirit was of the very worst quality, either from its wanting age, or from the unskilfulness of the distillers; so that a double advantage accrued to the carriers of this traffick, which has now entirely fallen to the ground; for the fish thus procured afforded them a full cargo there, and was again exchanged with the French for melasses, very little of it being made into rum by that people, that it might not interfere with their brandies in Europe.

As the fishery can now be carried on with evident advantage, it will commonly be in dried cod, the annual consumption of which in our West India islands is not less than 140,000 quintals; so that, in proportion as the act of navigation is enforced in that quarter, will our fisheries become extended or diminish. Ships can put to sea from hence at all seasons of the year, as the  
harbours

harbours are never frozen ; so that, in a few days getting into the trade winds, they are free from every kind of danger, except in the hurricane months. Thus, if by means of the fisheries and lumber trade, their vessels are constantly employed, the quick return of so large a capital, as that at present employed in the trade of the Province, must, of necessity, bring a considerable profit to the kingdom, which can never happen if the strictest attention is not constantly paid by every officer, whose duty it is to prevent any abuses of the admirable laws, that have laid the foundation of our wealth and power.

It is not to the south side of the peninsula alone, which abounds with so many excellent harbours, that the cod fishery is confined. The seas on every side equally afford opportunities for the exertions of industry, and the means of subsistence to the inhabitants. Gaspec Bay was once a famous settlement of the French Neutrals,  
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and is, together with Chalem Bay, the principal places resorted to by the Canadian fishermen. The fish caught here, though generally inferior in size to those of Newfoundland, is, however, considerable in quantity, not much short of 40,000 quintals, some small portion of which is consumed within the Province of Canada, and the rest exported.

**WHEAT AND FLOUR.** In the present situation of the Province, it cannot be supposed, that, since her population has increased to six or seven times more than it was before the rebellion, there is any to spare either of the one or the other, so as to become articles for exportation, at least for some time to come. The lands are, however, in most places, well adapted for the cultivation of wheat, barley, rye, oats, pease, and beans; they are already growing in large quantities in many places, particularly upon the banks of St John's River, north of the bay of Fundy, among the French colonists

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from



from Canada, equal to any in the world for goodness, and likewise at Port Roseway, and many other places in the peninsula. It will certainly be for the interest of government to encourage agriculture to a certain degree in the remaining provinces, for they are already able to export from Canada alone nearly all the corn that is used in the British West India Islands; but it may be justly doubted, whether flour and wheat, as well as oats and beans, may not be sent out cheaper from Great Britain and Ireland, than they can be had from America; since freight is much lower from the former, owing to many ships going out every year with scarcely half a cargo, and a great number in ballast only, for want of cargoes, which makes them always glad to take in goods upon almost any terms. Both the lower and upper Canada grow vast quantities of corn: The former is equal in the goodness of its soil to many parts of America, whilst the upper is greatly superior, both in that and its climate;

added

added to this, it is the only channel through which the state of Vermont can have any communication with the sea, and eventually with Europe; consequently the subjects of Great Britain must always remain the carriers of its produce; and it is certain, that even Pennsylvania does not exceed it in the goodness of those articles of which we are speaking. The southern states of Europe take already to a large amount of flour from our remaining colonies; and, if the present high price of freight and insurance continues upon American vessels navigating in the Mediterranean, by being so much exposed to insult from the piratical states of Barbary, it will enable them to undersell the rest of America, in the only market where their flour can find a vent.

LUMBER. So much has been already said of the goodness of the woods, their plenty, and vast variety, as may make it less necessary to enlarge upon particulars in this place; and, as it is plain to a demonstration, that,

that, whatever part of our carrying trade falls into the hands of foreigners, must, of course, be attended with a proportional diminution of seamen and shipping to Great Britain, it would be highly proper for government to allow a small bounty upon all lumber that is the growth of our remaining colonies, exported from thence to the West Indies, though it were but for a limited time; especially if it appears, that the complaints of the West India planters are well founded, who have long urged, that the supply at present is too scanty, often precarious, and commonly very dear, owing to a want of competition in the market, which would be immediately removed, were they allowed to receive lumber from the Continent in American bottoms. As these persons form a very respectable part of the community, their grievances, where they have a real foundation, should be carefully attended to, and strictly redressed; but, if any measure tending to a relaxation of the navigation laws, is the object of their wish-



es, they ought to remember, that such measures are sapping the very existence of the British naval power, and, by consequence, destroying that which can alone protect the possessions, from whence their wealth and importance is derived; and not only so, but doing the same by all our other foreign dominions.

The lumber sent from hence is already very considerable; five saw-mills are going continually at Port Roseway, and in its neighbourhood, and a far greater number at other places. St Andrews sent off several cargoes very lately to our islands, notwithstanding the attempts of the Americans to ingross the trade in Passamaquoddy Bay to themselves, by endeavouring to form a settlement upon the west side of the river St Croix; nor is it to be doubted, but that the woods, population, and shipping of this Province, even independent of the forests of Canada, are fully adequate to supply the consumption of all the British islands

islands for some ages to come; since, from its local situation, and milder climate, it possesses many advantages over that province, and the woods of New England have already failed in many places, especially near the sea. Nothing, therefore, seems wanting, at present, but a small bounty, rather as the means of enabling our subjects to bring a sufficient quantity into the market, than from any scarcity; though, without bounties, its exportation will be greatly extended, as soon as the people are disengaged from the more necessary pursuits that at present may naturally be supposed to ingross their attention.

FURS. It may be deemed a fortunate circumstance, that, seeing such immense territories were abandoned to America in the provisional treaty, by a person who, probably, having never crossed the Atlantic, was, therefore, in some respects, inadequate to the task, the Americans have failed in the fulfilling several of its essential

tial articles. Until these are in some degree performed, it will be both just and wise to withhold the posts upon the lakes as a security to carry on the fur trade, which can be done more advantageously through Canada, unless these forts are given up, than through any of the states, except New York, where Hudson's river, penetrating a long way into the country, communicates with the lakes of Canada, and thereby enables Albany to become the staple for this traffick with the different Indian nations. The furs hitherto sent from Nova Scotia have been but inconsiderable; they would have appeared much greater in the two last years, had proper custom-houses been established in the respective ports of the province, as has been lately done, for their entry; since most of those sent to Britain were smuggled home in merchant ships or transports.

As the Americans, in spite of all our endeavours, will attract a part of this trade



to themselves from Canada, our own subjects should receive every possible encouragement, either by taking off the present duties, which are intolerably heavy, and allowing not only a drawback upon exportation, but even a bounty, should it be found necessary, in order to enable the inhabitants of the colonies to undermine the trade of their neighbours, by giving a larger price for furs, than the Americans can afford.

Masts, yards, and spars, abounding in so great a number of places, and having been so often mentioned, need not to be enlarged upon; no other part of the Continent affords them in so great a variety, nor so easy for transportation to the sea.

Rum is a spirit much used in America, particularly in those places that lie contiguous to, or are employed upon the fisheries. It was formerly manufactured to an immense extent in Boston, and other places,

now

now under the dominion of the United States, chiefly from the melasses, which they procured from the French islands; and the rum thus made, though of a very bad quality, was mostly consumed by the fisheries, carried on from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Canada, to the amount of 600,000 gallons annually; a sure proof of the immense profit derived from it to the carriers and manufacturers, especially when it is considered, that the melasses was commonly received in exchange for fish, lumber, and provisions of various kinds; so that, with these encouragements, a certainty of freight, both out and homeward bound, and the constant evasion of duties on their arrival, it is not to be wondered at, that those people became so suddenly capable of making a figure as a commercial state. As the British islands generally make their melasses into rum, which the French do not, it may admit of some doubt, whether the distilleries of Nova Scotia should be extended, or the fisheries and

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remaining

remaining colonies receive their supply of spirits immediately from our islands. As the quantity is certainly very great that is consumed by the former, and the sale of foreign liquors being strictly prohibited under very heavy penalties, this regulation, if strictly enforced, will, in a short time, amply compensate the planters and West India merchants for any partial injury they may have received from the wise and salutary restrictions laid upon their commerce with the subjects of the United States, as they will hereby enjoy the monopoly, in its most extensive sense, of all our remaining possessions, and the different fisheries.

**SALT.** An advantage, and that not a small one, which our fisheries will have over those of foreign nations, is, the being possessed of the salt keys in the West Indies, where salt is made from sea water, evaporated to dryness by the heat of the sun. A garrison ought to be placed in them to  
secure



secure the monopoly of it to our own subjects, both in peace and war; and thus, by prohibiting other nations from loading salt for their fisheries, except under certain restrictions, would cause it to operate as a bounty upon the fish taken by the British Americans, and give them the superiority in foreign markets, an advantage much wished for, and of which we should never lose sight.

White oak cannot be said to be very plentiful in Nova Scotia. As it is an article indispensibly necessary for staves for rum puncheons, and hogheads, in the West Indies, it may admit of some doubt whether the quantity brought to Britain, by the tobacco ships from the southern States of America, each of which takes in a great number of staves, as dunnage for her cargo, will be sufficient for the consumption of the islands. If they are not, this kingdom cannot be injured in its trade the supply that will be afforded them from

from the southern States, who, having no shipping of their own, are very little interested in the question, either how, or by what nation their produce is exported; and, as they will not be prevailed upon to lose the trade of this country, by adopting the ill judged resentment of their northern neighbours, most, if not all, of their traffic with the islands will be carried on in British bottoms.

Tar, pitch, and turpentine. A great demand for these articles will always continue in the British dominions, whilst they remain a commercial empire, large quantities of which may be made in the remaining colonies, where nearly four fifths of all the lands are covered with pines, especially if a small bounty was given for a few years upon each of them. Most of the tar formerly used in Britain was manufactured in the Carolina's, and though much cheaper, even with the extra charge of freight, than Swedish tar, was held so much inferior to it,

it, that, in many works and manufactures, the latter was constantly preferred. Since, however, the discovery of extracting the bitumen and essential oil of pit coal, a thing long sought for, and at length brought to perfection, this nation bids fair, after supplying herself, to become the staple for the rest of Europe, as it has been found to resist the bite of that destructive insect the sea worm \*, with which the waters of our seas abound almost as much as those of America,

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 \* It would not, perhaps, be altogether an useless inquiry whether this insect, so well known by its terrible effects upon the bottoms of vessels, and all kinds of wood, that are constantly eat into and entirely destroyed by it, is originally a native of this hemisphere, or has been imported since our discovery of, and commerce with, the new world, as their numbers and ravages seem continually to increase. In Holland, for instance, the wood that composed a part of one of their dikes, upon which the safety of the country in a great measure depends, was so entirely destroyed a few months ago that the damages were estimated at L. 40,000, in one place only.



As a quantity of vegetable tar will always be wanted for rigging, cables, sails, &c. and the British colonies are capable of affording a supply to some extent, it will be proper to bestow upon it some encouragement, which must tend greatly to clearing the lands, in the same manner as confining the transportation of lumber to the West Indies to British vessels alone ; for as the new settled countries upon the continent, are one entire forest, the greater the demand is, and the surer vent they find for their produce, the sooner will the lands be cleared, their improvement effected, and the nation thereby freed from the expence of feeding and cloathing the loyalists.

Pearl ashes, and Pot ashes, are made at this time by almost every inhabitant, but not in sufficient quantities for exportation.

The reason is obvious. The cultivation of their lands, as the only means of securing a permanent subsistence, must naturally preclude almost every other pursuit, except those

those branches of commerce, the means of extending which are easy in the acquisition, and immediately open to their view.

Iron ore abounds in many places. The soil in general is well adapted to the culture of hemp and flax. Their pit coal is of an inferior quality, abounding with sulphur, but may hereafter become useful to the Province, as an article of export. It has been lately discovered near the Grand lake, upon St John's River, and is accounted better than that of Spanish River, in the island of Cape Breton. Most of the garrisons are supplied from the latter, and it is probable that the United States must purchase it from them a few years hence, as wood is much dearer and scarcer in the sea-port towns of the Eastern Provinces, than is generally imagined.

It may be unnecessary to enlarge upon the imports from Great Britain to the colonies still

still possessed by her. Their nature is too well known, to need either a description or enumeration, and their increasing consumption must always be in proportion to the population of the colonies. The superior goodness of the manufactures of Great Britain, even where attempts have been made to rival them, has constantly opened to themselves a market, extended their sale, and increased their reputation. Not only the province, whose produce and description have been more particularly attended to, but Canada, and the extensive territories upon the lake, the population of which is very great, and is hourly encreasing, must receive all their supplies of cloathing, &c. from England: To which may be added, a large and valuable trade with all the nations of the North.

GOVERNMENT.



## GOVERNMENT.

**T**HE form of the government in Nova Scotia approaches as nearly to that of the parent state as possible. The governor is named in England, and represents the Sovereign, as no laws are deemed valid without his assent. A council is named by him, whose office is analogous to that of the House of Peers, as holding a middle rank in their legislative capacity, between the governor and the representatives of the people. These last are chosen by the freeholders and burgesses for each of the counties and large towns, and resemble the House of Commons in England.

This kind of government, though apparently complicated, is, on a closer analysis, equally just and simple. The liberties of the people can only be endangered by the pusillanimity or treachery of their representatives ; and, whilst their freedom is guarded against the encroachments of weak, arbitrary, or profligate ministers, by the power and authority of a British parliament, an entire, full, and complete exemption from taxation for ever, but by their own consent, is secured to them by the same sacred compact.

The contrast between new fangled states, where a rude and imperfect fabric is suddenly raised upon the sandy foundations of a turbulent democracy, and a government formed upon the model of a superstructure which has been the work of ages, and is the admiration of the world, is too striking, not to afford to the present age a lesson equally interesting and instructive. The probable consequences of such a form  
subsisting

subsisting in the latter, will be, an increase of population by emigrations from other countries, an increase of trade and shipping, a great improvement in their lands, and an addition to the value of them.

Where freedom does not exist, in the fullest and most unconfined sense, very little good is to be expected from the richest soil, or most unbounded territories, even in those countries where science has long since reared its head, and the arts have enjoyed the patronage of the great; but, in countries newly planted, whose inhabitants know how to prize their liberties, and esteem them as natural and inherent rights, every innovation that can possibly affect them, must be a step toward the ruin of the colonies, and the means of sowing eternal discord with the mother country.

Great Britain still possesseth a large extent of territory in the new world, inhabited by a people virtuous and loyal; their

morals



morals are as yet untainted, by that impoisoned spring, which, flowing from the jails of Europe, and the most corrupt of mankind, contributed to spread pestilential influence over many parts of America, and whose effects are too well known to need a comment, or to point it out as a mode of colonization, equally absurd and impolitic. Extensive dominions, if destitute of people of industry, and of commerce in proportion to its size, is such a possession as is only fitted to gratify the pride of conquest, or the licentiousness of ancient heroism. Their great extent is but a proof of their extreme weakness, and renders them either an easy prey to foreign invasions, or the more liable to suffer or to perish by their own dissensions. The remaining colonies are compact and united. Long may this island continue, by the wisdom of her councils, and the justice of her measures, to unite all the distant parts of so great an empire in one strict and indissoluble bond of fraternal union; and, while

while the freedom of her sacred constitution bestows blessings upon the unborn millions, who may hereafter become inhabitants of her remaining colonies, may it be the *second* wish of every subject, "that the King may long continue the sovereign of a free people, the first should be, that the people may be free."

## E I N S.

while the freedom of her sacred confessions  
 and bestows blessings upon the unborn  
 millions, who may hereafter become inha-  
 bitants of her remaining colonies, may it  
 please (said King) your Majesty, that  
 the King may long enjoy the love and  
 affection of his people, and that  
 the people may long enjoy the love and  
 affection of their King.

